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Portugal's *National* Newspaper in English

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on P. 34 - Sudoku  
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#### **Madeira homeless win Euromillions Jackpot**

Last week's €44 million Euromillions Jackpot prize has been claimed by a group of 20 Madeirans from the regions of Santo António and São Roque, in Funchal, some of whom were made homeless by the devastating storms that struck the island on 20 February this year. (See Page 4)

#### **Mother arrested on suspicion of murdering 2 year-old son**

Portuguese PSP Police arrested a woman this week on suspicion of drowning her two year-old son in the Laje River in Rio de Mouro then trying to cover it up with a bogus attack story. (See Page 6)

#### **Food Bank smashes collection records**

Despite being in the midst of one of the most crippling financial crises in recent history, last weekend Portugal dug deep and in the name of charity gave more than it had ever given before. (See Page 7)

#### **Obesity affects around 30% of Portuguese children**

Excess weight and obesity affects around 30% of Portugal's child population, according to the national society for the study of obesity. (See Page 8)

#### **Discrimination affects 1 in 4 senior citizens**

One in four Portuguese people over 65 have been a victim of age related discrimination, according to a European Social study published earlier this month. (See Page 17)

#### **Weekend weather**

**Lisbon:** Gusts of wind of around 80km/h will hit the capital on Sunday, bringing with them heavy rain that will last much of next week. On the plus side, thermometers will creep up to around 18° thanks to the consistent cloud cover. **Algarve:** Rain will dominate this weekend, with heavy rain and strong winds predicted for Sunday. Rain will continue to reign supreme for much of next week, though the worst will be over by Monday evening. **North:** Heavy rain is predicted for much of next week, with strong winds also expected.

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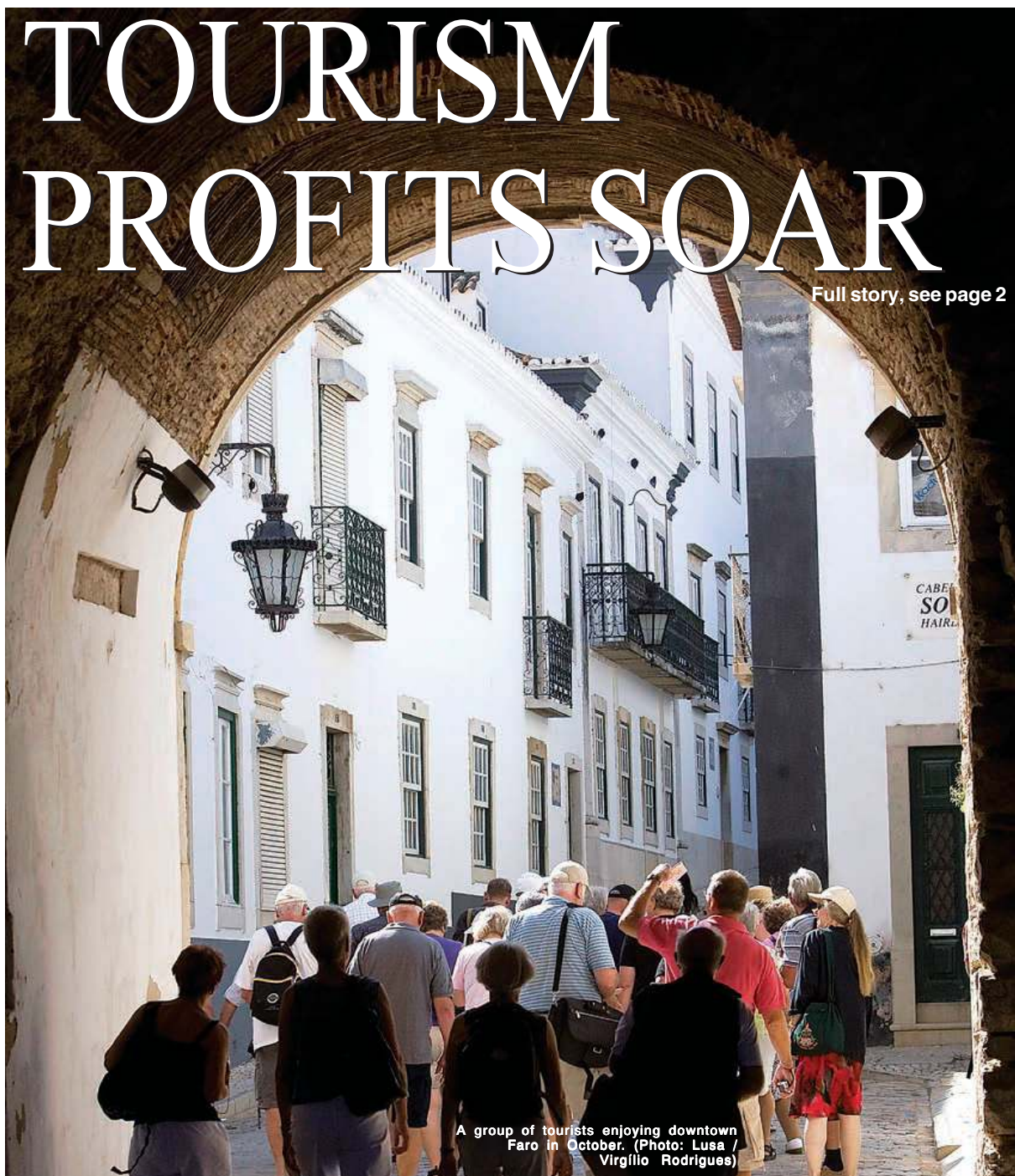
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## Bank of Portugal says tourism has never generated so much money as it has so far in 2010

# TOURISM PROFITS SOAR

Full story, see page 2



A group of tourists enjoying downtown  
Faro in October. (Photo: Lusa /  
Virgílio Rodrigues)



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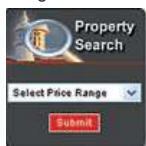
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## Tourism profits soar

Brendan de Beer

Official figures show that cash generated from tourism has reached 5.87 billion euros by the end of September, translating into the country's best performance on record.

Close to half of the revenue received so far this year (€2.87 billion) was generated by foreign tourists visiting the country during the summer, which in itself is also a record, beating the previous best year of 2008.

According to the Bank of Portugal's statistical bulletin, year-on-year increases in tourism revenue were up 12.1% in 2010. When compared with the benchmark year of 2008, revenue is still up by 44 million euros.

The Bank of Portugal explains that these surprisingly good figures are largely due to considerable growth in three major markets. Dutch visitors spent 20.3% more in Portugal than they did last year, Britons converted 12.6% more of their pounds in 2010, while Germans managed to spend 11.8% more on their visit to Portugal this year than they did in 2009.

Further afield, exponential growth in tourists arriving from Brazil has also been attributed to this year's positive figures, with Brazilians spending 56.3% more in Portugal so far in 2010.

According to Algarve hotel association AHETA, the number of guests who visited Portugal is down by 3% for the first ten months of 2010 compared with 2009.

But in its latest monthly bulletin, and in line with overall beliefs that the while the number of tourists are down, the amount of money spent is on the up, AHETA shows that 4 and 5-star hotels in the Algarve reported an increase of 14.1% in the number of guests in October compared to the same month last year.

The opposite is true for 2 and 3-star hotels, where occupancy rates were down by 7.9% and 6.3%, respectively.

While visitors from the UK rose by 4%, Ireland's woes continue to affect Portugal, with the number of visitors down 31%.

"Luxury products are performing better", James Munro, General Manager of the Sheraton Algarve told The Portugal News on Thursday, adding that the group's "residential products are up in 2010".

Mr. Munro explained that numbers have remained constant despite the decision to increase prices in 2010.

He explained the success of the Sheraton group being the result of a number of different factors, including an increased focus on the Scandinavian market and boost in the number of destinations opened up by low-cost airlines.

In fact, latest figures posted by Ryanair have revealed a 23% increase in revenue, while seats booked on easyJet for flights to mainland Europe have risen 15.9% this year.

Incredible as it may seem the tourism industry is this year well on its way to reporting the best year on record in terms of revenue. Amid the economic crisis, the Bank of Portugal has this week revealed that the tourism industry was responsible for generating revenue of almost six billion euros in the first nine months of the year, well above numbers registered in 2009 or even 2008, which was considered the best year ever for tourism in Portugal. But despite these positive figures, some golf courses and hotels expressed surprise, saying numbers have either stagnated or suffered a slight decline.

The Marriott Hotel in central Lisbon also revealed it has experienced a positive year, saying 2010 "has been much better than 2009".

News of 2010 being a record year for revenue was met with astonishment by a spokeswoman for a 4-star hotel in Cascais, who said while they remain optimistic for 2011, this year numbers have been around 5% down on 2009.

The Tourism State Secretary, Bernardo Trindade while saying that this year is en route for being the best since records began, this week admitted to journalists that "2011 could be a difficult year", but remained optimistic.

"Tourism has proven itself to be a major protagonist in the recovery of the Portuguese economy", he said, "We aren't even comparing this year with 2009, which was a particularly bad year. Instead we are looking at 2008 which numbers show to have been the best year ever. As it stands, we have already exceeded revenue obtained in 2008 by 44 million euros this year", stressed Mr. Trindade.

The state secretary said this unexpected growth is "essentially due to government policies, which, in conjunction with the private sector, have improved the country and made it more accessible to tourists and placed Portugal on Europe's and the world's route of quality destinations."

The state secretary's argument has been supported throughout the year as Portugal was this summer handed a string of accolades from British researchers who found the country to be the most cost effective to visit. Lisbon was highlighted as the second best city for a short-break, while beaches in the Algarve were voted amongst the top in the world.

The Algarve also emerged as the preferred destination for British parents' who can look forward to getting more holiday cash this year than last if they visit the eurozone, Post Office Travel Money's new Family Holiday Report revealed.

Meal prices in Portugal, rated the best family value destination by the Post Office, have dropped 47 per cent since July 2009 (an average of £27.03 for two adults/ two children with drinks).

Almost a quarter of parents also voiced concern about the cost of beach items and, as the Post Office resort research for the Family Holiday Report indicates, they have good cause in most other European destinations, but not in Portugal.

Further recognition of Portugal this year came when Kelkoo's Beach Index, compiled by the Centre for Economics and Business Research and YouGov, revealed the Algarve's beaches to be amongst the best five in the world.

In the study, it emerged that 85% of Britons state that

affordability is their number one holiday clincher, with Portugal's competitive prices a clear winner.

The Kelkoo Beach Index independently ranks the best worldwide beach holiday destinations based on the 10 factors that matter most to UK holidaymakers, which besides affordability, include security (81%), the weather (78%), and good food (77%).

The Algarve was placed fifth behind winners Bulgaria, Tunisia, Turkey and Egypt, but these destinations' geographical locations often allow the Algarve to gain additional visitors.

The index also predicted a more positive outlook for the travel sector in 2010, with UK travel expenditure forecast to reach £41.1bn or £669 per person, a £1bn increase (+2.4%) on 2009.

Bruce Fair, Managing Director of Kelkoo UK, explained: "In the current climate, British holidaymakers seem to be more cost-conscious than ever."

"UK travellers now have around 16% more spending power in the Eurozone than they did at the beginning of 2009, with consumers currently able to get around £1.20 as opposed to £1.02 for every pound they spend."

In further recognition of the Algarve as a top destination, hotels.com this summer placed the beaches at Alvor and São Rafael amongst the top 20 in the world.

The capital has also performed admirably in recent times and in less than two years, Lis-

bon has propelled itself to sit comfortably amongst Europe's most enticing destinations, collecting an assortment of awards along the way that prove the worthiness of its heady ascension.

Last year Lisbon reigned victorious in three of the World Travel Awards' most coveted categories: 'Europe's Leading Destination 2009', 'Europe's Leading Cruise Destination 2009', and 'Europe's Leading City Break Destination 2009'.

In April, Lisbon was voted 'Europe's Best Holiday Destination' in a survey conducted by the European Consumers Organisation, which described "the wonderful city" as "the most beautiful place to go [in Europe] for a trip or a week."

These achievements followed a string of recent awards, including one from travel website Lonely Planet, which described Lisbon as a "seductive mermaid" and ranked the Portuguese capital as one of the ten-top cities to visit.

In 2009, Yahoo Travel also placed Lisbon as third in its top-ten list of cities to visit.

Lisbon was this year also voted by one of the world's leading travel advice websites, TripAdvisor as Europe's 'Most Affordable' holiday destination.

According to a survey conducted online by the well-known travel advisory website TripAdvisor, Lisbon, while not necessarily being the most attractive, cleanest or safest European city, is the most affordable for people looking to take a break in Europe.



State Secretary for Tourism Bernardo Trindade pictured here earlier this year unveiling the Allgarve 2010 Programme which is seen as key to attract foreign and national tourists to southern Portugal. (Photo: Lusa/Luis Forra)



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# Madeira homeless win Euromillions Jackpot



Last week's €44 million Euromillions Jackpot prize has been claimed by a group of 20 Madeirans from the regions of Santo António and São Roque, in Funchal, some of whom were made homeless by the devastating storms that struck the Island on 20 February this year.



Joana Silva, the owner of the newspaper shop in Funchal that sold the euromillions ticket which was won by twenty homeless people. (Photo: Lusa / Homem de Gouveia)

The information was confirmed to Lusa News Agency by Joana Silva, the owner of the newspaper shop from where the winning ticket was purchased.

She told Lusa that the lucky syndicate was formed three years ago, and she herself had been an original member despite having pulled out before the windfall. Each member contributed with €18.

"Some joined, others, like me, opted out. I didn't win anything", she said.

Joana Silva added "All of these people are needy, they are people's people, some were severely affected by the February storm, and others were even left homeless. They are all friends."

Mrs. Silva revealed that the syndicate usually filled in 30 forms with six bets on each form – 15 numbers and five stars – spending a total of €360, or around €18 each.

It is thought that the members will now receive prize money of around €2.6 million each. They have asked for their identities to remain anonymous.

Meanwhile a Barcelos court has ruled that a young couple who have been sparring over a €15 million Euromillions win since 2007 must divide the win equally.

The couple, who split up almost immediately after having found out they won the mega cash prize, have been disputing the prize for three years and have eventually had to resort to legal action to settle the matter. Behind the dispute was the fact that it was the girlfriend – Cristina Simões – who suggested the winning numbers, but it was the boyfriend – Luís Carlos Ribeiro – who paid for the bet.

The court ruled that "the proven facts indicated the existence of an agreement between Luís Carlos and Cristina Simões that they would share any winnings", and added "the aforementioned showed collaboration by filling in the form, registering it and paying the respective fee", and that "the latter offered an intellectual collaboration which comprised providing the list of numbers."

The couple had been dating for nearly three years before falling out over the cash.

Even though the prize cheque was made out in both their names, it was deposited into one account, Miss Simões', and could only be accessed with her parents' authorization, as, at Miss Simões suggestion, her father would be "more knowledgeable and informed about banking issues."

At the time she gave her then-boyfriend less than €100,000. The couple subsequently split, with Mr. Ribeiro taking his ex-girlfriend to court over the money. He had asked for more money with which to help his parents, who live in a rural part of Portugal, but was told by his former lover that "the money was hers and she would do with it whatever she wanted."

Miss Simões parents said they would only make any transfers once the couple had married.

Barcelos Court has now finally put a lid on the matter, ruling that the Simões family must pay Luís Carlos Ribeiro "the amount corresponding to half of the Euromillions prize, or €7.5 million – as well as half of all interest earned on the money."

The Simões'd had also asked that Luís Carlos Ribeiro be convicted for acting in bad faith, however the court cleared him of that accusation.

"He cannot, as is evident, be considered a litigant of bad faith", the ruling read, explaining "he did not seek to affirm a right that he consciously knew he was not entitled to."

## EU crackdown on drivers committing traffic offences abroad



Drivers look set to be punished for traffic offences they commit abroad, including the four 'big killers' causing 75% of road fatalities – speeding, running red lights, failure to use seatbelts and drink driving – under proposals due to be agreed by EU transport ministers meeting in Brussels at the end of the week.

European Commission Vice-President Siim Kallas, responsible for transport, will urge ministers to find an agreement, saying: "A foreign driver is three times more likely to commit an offence than a resident driver. Many people seem to think that when they go abroad the rules no longer apply to them. My message is that they do apply and now we are going

to apply them."

EU figures suggest that foreign drivers account for 5% of traffic but around 15% of speeding offences. Most go unpunished, with countries unable to pursue drivers once they return home.

The proposal for a directive on cross-border enforcement in the field of road safety is now aiming to remedy that situation.

Ministers will consider a text

that targets traffic offences with a critical impact on road safety, including the four 'big killers' causing 75% of road fatalities: speeding; failing to stop at traffic lights; failing to wear seatbelts and drink driving. As well as: Driving under the influence of drugs; Failing to wear safety helmets; illegal use of an emergency lane and illegal use of a mobile phone while driving.

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# Global crisis aids Lisbon move towards green economy - official



Representatives of several religions pray for a positive outcome from the Climate Change Summit in Cancun, Mexico on 30 November. (Photo: EPA/Elizabeth Ruiz)



Portugal is using the global crisis to advance towards a more environment friendly economy, Environment State Secretary Humberto Rosa said this week.

"We're taking advantage of the fact that constraints originating from the Kyoto Protocol for [pollution reduction] targets on emissions per inhabitant are demanding", Mr. Rosa told Lusa News Agency ahead of the UN-sponsored climate change summit in Cancun, Mexico, that opened on Monday.

Despite the financial and economic crisis, Rosa said Portuguese policy recognised that investments in renewable energy were a "principal indicator of a green and sustainable economy".

"We are showing we know how to use the economic crisis to have a greener economy", he added, saying "we are producing more wealth with less [greenhouse gas] emissions".

Lisbon has sent a technical delegation to Cancun which will be joined later by Environment Minister Dulce Pássaro and Rosa.

The Environment Minister meanwhile explained this week that the global economic crisis and the US Obama administration's recent electoral losses does not leave room for "many expectations" at the UN climate change summit.

"It's fundamental to see what the United States and China are willing to discuss and assume" Dulce Pássaro said.

"There's some expectation, but given the context of the recent political changes in the United

States and the economic crisis, honestly, we all know that there can't be many expectations", she added.

Pássaro underlined that the European Union held a "vanguard position" in relation to climate change policies, but that it could not "advance alone".

EU-member Portugal, she added, was "aligned with the rest of the world" in working for "effective binding instruments" in the fight against greenhouse gas emissions.

Pássaro will head to Cancun within days to participate in the summit that runs through to 10 December.

TPN/Lusa

## Mother arrested on suspicion of murdering 2 year-old son



Portuguese PSP Police arrested a woman this week on suspicion of drowning her two year-old son in the Laje river in Rio de Mouro then trying to cover it up with a bogus attack story.

According to a statement from the PJ police, 24 year-old Sandra Monteiro murdered her son, then invented a story about five masked youths who attacked her and drowned him.

"It was a way for the woman to hide the crime," said a PJ spokesman, who added that after two year-old Tiago's death on Monday night, his mother tried to commit suicide "but didn't have the courage to do so."

According to early reports of the incident in *Diário de Notícias*, the mother claimed that a gang of five masked youths had snatched the toddler out of her

arms and thrown him into the river.

The motive for this alleged attack was revenge against the toddler's father, who is reportedly from Cape Verde and is believed to have problems with a Lisbon-based gang. "This is for you to warn him," they allegedly told the child's mother.

A PSP police spokesman said at the time that the crime could also have been motivated by robbery, as the child's mother was carrying €130 in cash, which disappeared.

Fire fighters from Agualva-Cacém were called out to the scene

at 10.45pm. "We arrived at the scene five minutes later and the child was already in his mother's arms. CPR was carried out, but the child had no pulse and wasn't breathing," said Commander Joaquim Leonardo, who added that despite their best efforts, the toddler died.

Following the tragedy, murder investigators and forensic scientists gathered evidence at the scene and interviewed witnesses. The child's body was transported to the Legal Medical Institute where an autopsy was carried out prior to the mother being arrested.

The funeral for the two year old is scheduled for Saturday, 4 December at the Rio de Moura cemetery.

## Solid waste cut by 10% by 2016

Portuguese generate about 470 kilograms of solid urban waste annually per capita, a figure the government wants to cut by 10% by 2016, a senior official said Friday.

Environment State Secretary Humberto Rosa announced the target in comments to Lusa News Agency on the sidelines of signing accords for waste consciousness raising programmes.

He said the Portuguese solid waste figures were below the European average and that the country was well ahead of EU targets for the reduction by a 2020 deadline. TPN/Lusa

## President to address Iberian-American summit twice

Portuguese President Cavaco Silva is scheduled to make two major speeches at the 20th Iberian-American summit taking place Friday and Saturday in Mar del Plata, Argentina, presidential sources told Lusa News Agency.

President Cavaco Silva will presently give the opening remarks of the summit and will speak again on Saturday.

Portugal hosted the 19th summit in 2009.

The Mar del Plata summit's agenda will focus on education, but will also include discussions on the situation in Honduras (whose government wasn't invited to attend) and on a border dispute between Costa Rica and Nicaragua. TPN/Lusa

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# Amid crisis Food Bank smashes collection records

Despite being in the midst of one of the most crippling financial crises in recent history, last weekend Portugal dug deep and in the name of charity gave more than it had ever given before. Held over Saturday and Sunday, a collection organised by the National Food Bank saw 3,250 tons of food donated from shoppers countrywide, setting a new record and exceeding last Christmas's drive by almost 1,000 tons of food.

More than 30,000 volunteers took their places by main entrances in 1,147 supermarkets and hypermarkets, north to south of Portugal. Shoppers from Abrantes, the Algarve, Aveiro, Braga, Coimbra, Cova da Beira, Évora and Beja, Leiria-Fátima, Lisbon, Oeste, Portalegre, Oporto, Santarém, Setúbal, S. Miguel, Viana do Castelo, Viseu and, for the first time ever, on the Azorean island of Terceira, responded by donating a few items from their own baskets. As a result, 3,250 tons of food products were collected, 30 percent more than the 2,490 tons collected in November last year.

The mammoth collection was divided up and during the course of this week forwarded on to some 1,800 national social welfare institutions, in the shape of hampers or ready-made meals. Via these institutions the Food Bank, and subsequently the nation's generosity, will feed an estimated 280,000 needy people over the Christmas period.

This year's Christmas drive, which took place on 27 and 28 November, was the biggest ever, both in terms of volunteers and donations. It is unprecedented in size in terms of a charitable action

held in Portugal. Because of this the Food Bank says it can guarantee a distribution that is "adequate" to its needs.

"The quantities gathered this weekend, despite the crisis that is affecting the country, have set an absolute record, proving that Portuguese citizens are intrinsically generous and unequivocally believe in projects for which they understand the objectives" said Isabel Jonet, President of the National Food Bank.

Mrs. Jonet added "great thanks to all who participated, donors and volunteers."

"We all have shown that it is possible to react, without despair, taking it into our hands and contributing whatever is within reach to resolve the most prominent problems affecting our society."

"We are here to prove we are worthy of this belief, this support and this trust", Isabel Jonet said.

Unfortunately the number of requests for help has risen all over the country. In Braga, more specifically, the Food Bank says there has been "a clear rise in the number of requests from social welfare institutions in that district."



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# Obesity affects around 30% of Portuguese children

Excess weight and obesity affects around 30% of Portugal's child population, according to the National Society for the Study of Obesity.



Children march against child obesity in downtown Coimbra. (Photo: Lusa / Paulo Novais)

Daide Carvalho, who made the statement during the 14<sup>th</sup> Portuguese Congress on Obesity in Oporto on 26 November added that, as well as being a serious public health problem of the 21<sup>st</sup> century, obesity is above all a "socio-political problem".

"Some may think that the socioeconomic crisis and lower incomes would lead to a reduction in obesity, but the truth is that obese people are the poorest, most unprotected and lowest class in society," he said.

To combat the growing problem, Mr. Carvalho believes that there must be nutritional intervention in schools, factories and other work places, while urban infrastructures should be changed to make cities safer and facilitate physical activity.

"We are going to promote healthier lifestyles with more physical activity for all ages, limit the advertising of soft drinks and other high energy foods, and regulate the food industry," he said.

For Daide Carvalho, this year's congress had a particularly eye-opening theme, about the problems associated with obesity.

The theme 'Obesity, diabetes, hypertension and dyslipidemia - dangerous links' highlights the importance of the first causing the rest.

"Treating obesity is essential in preventing the rest, which when associated with obesity are the determining factors of cardiovascular illnesses, the main causes of death in Portugal," said Mr. Carvalho.

Recent figures which show that 11.7% of Portuguese people are diabetic "highlights this fact", but "even more worrying is a recent prediction from the US that states that by 2050, the prevalence of diabetes will be 30%,"

# Health Minister says C-Sections should be limited to clinical need

Access to caesarean labours in Portugal could soon become more restricted after Health Minister Ana Jorge said last weekend that such interventions should be carried out "exclusively based on clinical criteria" to fight a "trend", particularly within the private sector.

During the first national congress held by the Portuguese Society for Maternal and Foetal Medicine, Ana Jorge appealed for there to be "a clinical criteria exclusively to indicate the need for a caesarean, that must be closely followed."

Minister Jorge told journalists that the Ministry of Health would be carrying out an awareness-raising campaign highlighting the risks that both mothers and babies face when undergoing a caesarean birth.

The Minister said that, in her opinion, vaginal delivery "is very good for the health of the babies and the women." She believes that clinical reasons may not be the only reason as to why women are opting for caesarean births as "in some places 100 percent of the births are caesareans."

"There are many factors that lead to it, some because it is easier to have a scheduled date and a time, others because women ask for a caesarean because they are afraid of pain and the false ideas that it would be better for the baby."

compared to the current 10%."

"When we think of the cost, the use of anti-diabetic medication increased by 31.4% between 2000 and 2007, suggesting that it is worth treating obesity to prevent diabetes," said Mr. Carvalho, adding: "Knowing that a third of our children have excess weight or are obese, we can only say: we are in trouble now but the future will be worse."

"We must debate whether it is a right to want to have a caesarean or if it is best for the woman and child's health, and that is up to the health professionals", Minister Jorge stressed, admitting that "from a clinical point of view there are some people who defend that a caesarean should be available on request."

She said that, ideally, "clinically-recommended caesareans should make up 25 to 30 percent of all births."

# Portuguese less happy than most Europeans

Portuguese people are less happy than the average citizen in the European Union, although people generally express more happiness than unhappiness in every country, according to a European study published earlier this month.

Jorge Vala, from the national Institute of Social Sciences and national coordinator for the EU study told Lusa News Agency: "We have found a lower perception of personal happiness in the Portuguese from 2002 up to 2008. This is not happening in the core EU countries or in the Nordic countries."

Despite this change in Portugal, researchers found that there is stability in the well-being indicators for general health and interpersonal confidence, on a European level.

People's satisfaction with governments and their confidence in the economy however has decreased between 2002 and 2008 in every country involved in the study.

In Portugal, people's satisfaction with the economy, which had increased between 2004 and 2006, decreased in 2008, becoming one of the lowest values of the entire study.

On a scale of zero (extremely unsatisfied) to 10 (extremely satisfied), on average, the 2,300 Portuguese who took part in the study gave three points to show their satisfaction with the economic situation, while the satisfaction with the government also decreased between 2006 and 2008.

Health was the only area in which Portuguese people's satisfaction grew continuously between 2002 and 2008. Despite this though, one in three people said that they do not believe it is possible to maintain financing of the health service.

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# Copper thefts costing companies millions



Copper being stolen from building sites and infrastructures, mainly by young drug addicts, is costing companies large and small millions of euros in losses.

National rail company Refer suffers, on average, some 15 thefts every month, while national energy network company REN has spent an extra five million euros reinforcing its security.

Copper thefts in fact are fast becoming the biggest cause of losses for companies such as REN and Refer, as well as a main concern for security.

In five years REN has seen €350,000 of its materials and equipment stolen and has spent five million euros in upping its security.

"Over the past five years REN has registered 68 thefts carried out on its sub-stations. These were thefts where copper was stolen. The total value for these robberies exceeds €350,000. It is not a high value, but it is a concern for the company, because the biggest damage caused by these crimes is the amount that then has to be spent on labour and equipping the areas with video-surveillance", REN operations manager Albino Marques told national newspaper *Público*.

Thieves' demand for copper is

partly due to the fact that the price for a ton of the metal last year rose from €3,500 to €5,700.

Another reason could be be-

cause when copper is stolen there is no trail of evidence left behind, as happens with car or property thefts.

## 'No pressure' on Lisbon to seek financial help

The president of the Eurogroup, Jean-Claude Juncker, has this week denied that Portugal is being pressed to follow Greece and Ireland in seeking international financial aid.

"There are no pressures. It's up to the Portuguese government to decide if it resorts to help" from the European Central Bank or the International Monetary Fund, Juncker told Portuguese journalists on the sidelines of the Europe-Africa summit in Libya.

Prime Minister José Sócrates, who also met with the journalists in Tripoli, declined to comment on Lisbon's financial predicament on the day

Portuguese 10-year bond yields set a new record of 7.076%.

The rise came one day after the European Commission projected Portugal will face a 1% economic contraction next year and manage to cut its deficit less than targeted by Lisbon.

Prime Minister Sócrates dismissed questions on the economy as a journalistic "obsession", saying Portuguese sovereign debt was "not up for discussion" at the two-day Euro-African summit ending Tuesday.

The prime minister later met with Portugal's top exporters on his return home on Tuesday evening.

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The Portuguese league against AIDS campaigned on Faro Island beach last July calling attention to the illness during the holiday season. (Photo: Lusa / Luis Forra)

## New AIDS cases halved in five years

The number of new cases of AIDS being diagnosed in Portugal has fallen by almost half in four years, and the number of AIDS-related deaths have diminished by a quarter in four years, according to the national coordinator for HIV/AIDS, Dr. Henrique Barros.

As deaths have fallen by 25 percent and the number of new cases by 50 percent in just five years, this year it is expected that the number of new AIDS cases being diagnosed will not exceed 400.

Making his prediction based on recently-diagnosed cases, Dr. Barros explained "in 2005 there were 847 diagnoses. If in 2009 there were 440, [based on that ratio] we hope that this year the number will have fallen to 400, seeing as so far we only know of 260.

"It is a sign we will reach our goal", he said.

On 1 December Portugal joined awareness-raising campaigns for World AIDS Day, 29 years after the first case of AIDS was diagnosed in this country.

This year will also see the end of a four-year programme developed to fight the incidence of AIDS, covering 2007 to 2010.

Portugal has successfully exceeded its goals in epidemiological terms. The number of new cases has fallen by 50, double the original goal of 25 percent and the number of deaths has fallen by 50 percent since the beginning of the decade.

Dr. Barros believes this may be because detection of the HIV

disease is being made at earlier stages; more people are being treated and there are more medicines available.

A report by the UN estimated that there may be as many as 42,000 people living with the disease in Portugal, though Dr. Barros suggests an estimate of between 35,000 to 40,000 could be more accurate.

Portugal is the second country in Western and Central Europe with the largest number of infected people, after Latvia.

Meanwhile, despite the posi-

tive progress regarding the drop in the number of new cases being diagnosed and deaths being caused by the disease, there has been a growth in the incidence of the disease within the homosexual community, of 15 percent, even though specific efforts were made within that group to raise awareness.

However, the number of infections caused by the sharing of needles has dropped six-fold, with 94 percent of drug addicts claiming they always use clean needles.

## Parliament eases civil registry changes for transsexuals

The leftist majority in the Portuguese parliament approved bills last Friday simplifying civil registry changes of gender and the names of transsexuals.

The two bills were presented by the minority Socialist government and the Left Bloc party.

Twelve lawmakers from the

main opposition centre-right Social Democratic Party broke ranks to vote with the leftist majority.

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## Currency exchange

As 2010 draws to a close we can reflect on the year that has proved quite volatile in the currency markets. For most of you reading this article, your currency exposure would have been in STG/EUR. Since the beginning of the year we have seen a range in this currency pair from just below 1.10 in early March to a high of 1.23 in August. That's quite a big movement and this has not been helped by the uncertainty that has been caused by the world economic crisis. Even as the year enters its last phase, there are many debates about the collapse of the Euro because of the debt situation in countries like Ireland, Portugal and Spain. It is more than likely that banks in these countries will have to accept bailouts which of course will amount to billions.

This will have affected currency rates. Sterling will be af-

fected as many UK banks have exposure to countries such as Ireland and there will be fears of default. This will prevent the pound taking advantage of Euro weakness as its possible it could have an adverse effect on the UK's economic growth, and will deter investors from buying the currency. One thing we can all see from this is that world economic events will have a financial influence on most of us, and especially those who have commitments abroad. Therefore, it's always good to try and plan ahead.

For this it may be a good idea to look at a forward contract. This is where an exchange rate is agreed for delivery in the future. The rate stays the same whatever is happening in the market and however volatile exchange rates are. This tool is also particularly useful for businesses that have to pay for goods abroad in another cur-

rency. By taking out a forward contract you know exactly how much you have to pay and when. For individuals, it's a useful tool if you have regular payments such as overseas mortgage payments or pension transfers.

Alternatively you can just take a chance on the market, depending on where the rate is. This is more of a gamble but sometimes circumstances dictate this method, as your funds may not always be readily available. It may well be a good idea to chat to a currency broker, who has market expertise and can achieve better rates than your high street bank. This will ultimately save you money, as transfers are also usually free of charge. The difference between the broker and the bank rate can be as much as 4 per cent plus the transfer fees.

Believe me you are never going to find the "top" of the exchange rate and we saw many people holding off when it touched 1.23 looking for 1.25. It never came! And the move back down was pretty quick so they found themselves dealing around the 1.18 level a week or so later. The moral in this is not to be too greedy, but plan sensibly for your future transfers. 2011 will be just as difficult for the markets with all sorts of world economic news affecting the currencies. It's best to try and keep as informed as you can if currency is part of your financial life.

It just may be worth making the effort and chatting to your currency broker, it will probably save you money in the long run and in the present climate that is quite important.

By Peter Rexstrew - the Managing director of Premier FX currency exchange based in Almancil. Call Premier FX on 351 289 358 511

Look out for regular articles in the The Portugal News

## Fiscal Representation problems

Sample Cases - Part 3 of a 4-part series by Dennis Swing Greene. The following problem cases are based on real events, illustrating what tangles can arise for Non-Residents in Portugal and how they can be avoided or fixed.

### Case no. 6 - Sound Information

Larry and Joan Brown were confused. For every question that they asked about Portugal, they got at least two conflicting answers. Their lawyer told them one thing, the estate agent another while their neighbour had yet a different version.

**Solution:** The Browns were finally referred to qualified Fiscal Representatives and were delighted to discover our Information Library. With 20 in-depth e-books on a variety of essential topics, 50 brochures on specific subjects, not to mention up-to-date books on Portuguese Individual Income Tax, Social Se-

curity Rights within the EU and Cross Border Estate Planning, they could quickly find reliable answers to their queries. Whether in print or via the Internet, they were assured of easy-to-understand explanations to their many questions about Portugal, available free to our clients.

### Case no. 7 - Rental Licensing

Sarah H. moved to Portugal and opened a Property Management service for non-residents letting to holiday makers. She assumed that Fiscal Representation was the responsibility of each owner as well as Local Lodging Licensing. Unfortunately, both her assumptions proved ill-founded. First, in organising her

business, she failed to make the proper distinction between Property Management and Holiday Letting. When inspected by 'ASAE', she found herself faced with a €25,000 fine for providing tourist services without a license. Her 'owners' did not fare much better. They were fined €2,500 for failure to have a Local Lodging Licence.

**Solution:** Had she secured professional Fiscal Representation for her owners and proper advice for herself, all of this trouble and

expense could have been avoided. With full-service Fiscal Representation, Rental Licensing should be included at no extra charge. In addition, our Small Business department can help new businesses get started on the right foot.

### Case no. 8 - Income Tax Rebates

The Smiths bought an apartment in Vilamoura and let it out through the development's management. While they were scrupulous in declaring all of the rental income in the UK, they never put in a tax declaration in Portugal. Little did they know that they were only shooting themselves in the foot!

**Solution:** When a management company rents a property on behalf of the owner, they are re-

quired by law to withhold tax on rental income. Most of this withholding should be eligible for a refund. In addition, with correct reporting of Local Lodging income, there should be no assessment in the UK. Simple compliance could have saved them many hundreds of Euros year after year!

Next: Part 4

Dennis Swing Greene is Chairman and International Fiscal Consultant for euroFINESCO s.a. Private consultations can be scheduled in Guia (Albufeira) 289561333, Lisbon (Chiado) 21342421 and in Funchal (Sé), Madeira 291221095, by e-mail at [info@eurofinesco.com](mailto:info@eurofinesco.com) or on the internet at [www.eurofinesco.com](http://www.eurofinesco.com).

## Global food demand puts up prices

By Bill Blevins, Financial Correspondent

Global food supplies are worryingly low and pushing up the price of not only corn and cotton, but as a knock-on effect, of meat and textiles too. Higher food prices will put pressure on inflation and The Portugal News readers may be well advised to review their financial planning to protect their wealth from inflation.

Food prices worldwide reached a two year peak. Wheat prices rose 60% in a year, pushed up by export restrictions in Russia and Ukraine after a summer of drought devastated crops. Corn and barley prices are up, which affects the price of animal feed, resulting in a 20-year high in the price of meat. Cotton hit a 15-year high in September and retailers are predicting more expensive cotton based clothes in the shops next year. The prices of other soft commodities like coffee, tea and cocoa are also edging higher.

Worldwide stocks of corn are at their lowest for 37 years. A corn shortage pushes up meat prices, and the price of beef and pork rose as a result.

In its twice yearly Food Outlook, released on 17th November, the UN warned that the world needs to be prepared for higher food prices next year. It raised its forecast for the global bill for

food by 15% compared to 2009.

China needs the corn for animal feed as more and more Chinese switch to eating meat. It takes 7kg of grain to produce 1kg of meat. In a generation, the Chinese have more than doubled their meat consumption.

Prospering middle classes in other Asian countries like India, Indonesia and Vietnam as well as Brazil, Mexico and Russia have a growing taste for meat, mainly pork. In Brazil, the world's second largest beef producer, there is a record demand for the product which is limiting exports.

Reduced meat stocks in major producing countries like Argentina, the US and Australia, would also add to price pressures.

The World Bank says that food production must be lifted 70% by 2050 to cater for population growth, greater prosperity, particularly in developing countries, and the consequent move in food tastes to meat. As an illustration, a 1% annual rise in population growth equates to the population of Britain extra to feed each year.

A report by the World Bank entitled "Rising Global Interest in Farmland: Can It Yield Sustainable and Equitable Benefits?" states that in 2009 45m hectares

worth of large scale farmland deals (approximately almost double the size of the UK) were announced indicating a ten-fold increase in a decade.

Two-thirds of the land sold has been in Africa. Brazil, Argentina and Madagascar are restricting sales to outsiders. Countries in Asia and the Middle East, such as China, South Korea and Saudi Arabia have bought land to provide for their home markets. Critics are concerned that a large portion of the land is being banked for further use and not actively farmed.

The World Bank has formulated seven principles for responsible agro-investment which are: 1) respecting land and resource rights, 2) ensuring food security, 3) ensuring transparency, good governance and a proper enabling environment, 4) consultation and participation, 5) responsible agro-investing, 6) social sustainability and 7) environmental sustainability.

Director of agriculture at the World Bank, Juergen Voegelé, said in the report that "given commodity price volatility, growing human and environmental pressures, and worries about food security", interest in farmland is rising."

The report also questions the Western world's desire for

biofuels which is adding to the land grab activity in the developing world.

The food shortages and consequent rise in prices is a growing concern worldwide. The tentacles are long and reach into the price and availability of clothes as well as other cotton-based end fabrics, biofuels and fertilisers.

Inflation is a concern in that it will erode your wealth in the long-term, affecting your future financial security and potentially the comfort of your lifestyle in retirement. It will also leave you less to pass onto your children and grandchildren. While personal rates of inflation vary, the price of food affects us all. But you don't have to worry because one way to counteract this is to include a section of real assets in your portfolio which will cover commodities like agriculture, livestock and energy, for which increasing demand will command rising prices.

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## Portuguese steel industry being drawn to Brazil

Portuguese steel companies have been drawn to Brazil by the "robust" growth of the Brazilian economy and by the opportunities generated by upcoming major events such as the 2014 World Cup and the 2016 Olympics, Portuguese steel industry trade association Ainmap spokesman Pedro Carvalho told Lusa News Agency.

"We're looking at opportunities, especially considering the current robust growth and the upcoming major events" hosted by Brazil, said Mr. Carvalho, who was leading a business delegation to São Paulo.

The delegation, composed of representatives from nine Portuguese companies, established connections with local businessmen. Mr. Carvalho said three of the companies have expressed interest in opening Brazilian divisions.

Having local plants is one way to get around Brazil's import duties. Mr. Carvalho said that European industrial products often lose competitiveness in foreign markets as other countries impose steep tariffs in retaliation against European protectionist agricultural policies. *TPN/Lusa*

# Crisis closes 'ten thousand restaurants'

During what has been termed 'the biggest crisis ever' to hit the national catering industry, according to the sector's main association, AHRESP, some 10,000 restaurants are estimated to have been forced to close their doors and predictions are even bleaker for 2011.

"I've been around since 1955. I have survived several crises, but this is the worst one. The sector is experiencing a crisis like never before", Mário Pereira Gonçalves, President of the Portuguese Association for the Hospitality, Catering and Similar trades AHRESP.

AHRESP has 25,000 associates and is self-entitled "the largest association in the country."

Focusing solely on catering, the association chief explained that the crisis experienced in the sector was first felt in 2008, but only the following year did it worsen.

"2009 was a bad year, this year was worse and, if nothing is done, 2011 will be worse still."

Mário Pereira Gonçalves addressed the closure of some 10,000 establishments last year alone, a number that, while it is provisional and not-definitive, "should rise further due to the lack of employment and weaker purchasing power



Finance Minister Teixeira dos Santos (L) and the President of the Eurogroup, Luxembourg's Prime Minister Jean-Claude Juncker (R) during an Extraordinary European Finance Ministers meeting on Ireland's situation at the European council headquarters in Brussels, Belgium. (Photo: EPA / Oliver Hoslet)

for both Portuguese and tourists."

A study carried out by AHRESP has revealed that revenue for the restaurant and drinks

industry has dropped on average by around 20 percent from 2000 to 2009, taking into account rises of inflation and of the national

minimum salary for the same period.

"This means that the sector is currently working on crushed

prices and without a margin for profit. It is living through a crisis like none before", Mr. Gonçalves said.

## Brussels sees higher deficit, slower growth than Lisbon



The European Commission foresees Portugal cutting its deficit to 4.9% in 2011 from a projected 7.3% this year, more than Lisbon's 4.6% target, according to a report released earlier this week.

Brussels' Autumn Economic Outlook was also more pessimistic than the Government's in terms of growth, projecting expansion of 1.3% this year, while expecting Portugal to face a 1% contraction next year, before resuming slight growth in 2012.

It forecast unemployment of 11.1% and 11.2% for the next

two years, respectively, against Lisbon's projections of 10.8% and 9.8%.

The graver figures came one day after EU leaders applauded the "significant structural reforms" Finance Minister Fernando Teixeira dos Santos outlined on Sunday at a meeting of his European counterparts in

Brussels.

German Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble said Monday in Berlin that Portugal's tough deficit-cutting budget coupled with the bailout package approved for Ireland left financial speculators without any "almost rational" pretext to pressure Portuguese bonds. *TPN/Lusa*

## More than €23.8 million fake euro notes seized in the EU so far this year

Counterfeit euro currency in coins and bank notes totalling a value of more than €23.8 million have been detected across the EU since the beginning of the year, with around €749,000 worth of fake currency being seized in Portugal.

According to the Bank of Portugal however, "the probability of a citizen receiving a counterfeit coin or note is very low," although it advises people "to check and compare their money if they have any doubts."

Between January and August this year, a total of 505,312 counterfeit bank notes were detected throughout the 16 countries that make up the Euro zone. Of these, 215,531

were 50 euro notes, 210,354 were 20 Euro notes and 61,361 were fake 100 euro notes.

Between May and August, European authorities took more than 11.5 million euros worth of counterfeit notes and coins out of circulation, including 285,000 euros in Portugal, according to figures revealed by the Bank of Portugal.

Nationally, the bank seized 6,544 fake notes between May and August with more than half being 50 euro notes, and 20 euro notes being the second most popular.

In terms of fake coins, a total of 41,010 were seized across the Euro zone in the same time period, with more than 30,000 being two euro coins, of which

1,453 were found in Portugal.

A police spokesman told Lusa News Agency that anyone who finds a counterfeit bank note or coin "should keep all information about the context of the occurrence, and report it to the PJ police, Bank of Portugal or any other bank," who will then pass the information on to the authorities.

In a bid to combat the problem in Portugal, the Bank of Portugal and the PJ police signed a cooperation agreement in December 2009, which aims to "prevent the counterfeiting and falsification of currency." So far, both on a national and European level, the amount of counterfeit money being seized has reduced.



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ing and pool maintenance. Also on offer are their cleaning services, from the smallest of jobs to a complete makeover of your apartment or villa. Their motto is that no job is too big or too small for them to handle.

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Working seven days a week in the Carvoeiro and Lagoa areas.



## Art classes with Mikki F

It's almost a year since Mikki F opened her art gallery in Algoz, which is an Alibabacave of precious artwork from paintings to ceramics.

However this cave is now empty, as her work has been much in demand. In one year Mikki's work has been shown at several exhibitions - Quinta Do Lago Hotel; Studio GT, Almancil; and Monte Santo, Carvoeiro. Currently Café Inglês is showing the Marrakech collection, and restaurant Couleur France is showing 'Hidden Thoughts'.

Several national and international (Harrogate, England; Mougins, South of France) art galleries are selling Mikki F's ceramics

and the Ico-Gallery from New York has requested her paintings.

She works for interior decorator Juventino, Almancil and right now she is preparing a Christmas sale in Belgium and from January 2011 she will be exhibiting at the Museu S. Brás de Alportel.

Last year Mikki F extended her creativity to include two ceramic workshops every Thursday. Mikki also gives private lessons in hotels and she has started giving painting classes on Wednesday evenings.

If you would like quality lessons in ceramic or any painting techniques, please contact Mikki F, mob. 964 934612, info.mikki.f@gmail.com, www.mikki-fexto.be.



## Getting the party going

Funworld4U is a new company that has started up in the Algarve, based in Lagoa. They will travel to any area in the Algarve, distance is no problem for them and they offer a wide range of entertainment for children to suit any occasion.

Bouncy castle hire is by the day, not per hour, as they believe children's fun should not have a time limit. Their prices are among the cheapest in the Algarve - a full day's hire starts as low as €48.99. They have different bouncy castles for birthdays, wedding receptions, BBQ's or any other occasion where you need to keep the children entertained.

They can also offer a complete package for individual children's

birthday parties, providing any or all of the following: bouncy castle, face painting, glitter tattoos, nail art, as well as going to your home or venue to completely decorate your chosen area.

You can choose how much, or how little you need - a complete decoration would include everything from bunting, balloons, party poppers, banners, right down to paper plates, napkins and party bags. Funworld4U can also arrange party games and will bring everything that is needed. Prices vary depending on requirements.

Contact Ian on 282 419 005 or 91 085 1140, or email us on: si.tradingpost@yahoo.com



## New Off the Wall Premises

Galeria Off the Wall has a new home in the converted barn of Susan Searle's old Algarvean farmhouse moving on from her successful gallery in Alte.

Talented painters, sculptors, and jewellers from across the Algarve are showing their work, ranging from exquisite hand and machined embroidered boxes and bags, carved marble birds and fish, to wood carving, felting, stained glass, mosaics and enamel work.

Susan also teaches mosaics and beginners felting as well as creating the decorative mosaic trim to

her half finished 'Gaudi' swimming pool.

If you would like to join a class, contact Susan on tel: 282 339 274 or 917 160 921 for further information.

Alternatively, why not pay them a visit? The Gallery is a delightful place to visit for that extra special and unique Christmas gift.

Gallery opening hours: Mon - Sat 10:00am-5:00pm (excluding Thursdays) Please ring first for directions. The Gallery is also always open for new artists to exhibit their work.



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Giclée specialise in printing superb quality large format images at affordable prices. Using only archival inks and fine art papers or canvas imported from America, they produce giclée prints on state of the art machines, achieving museum quality prints with an archival permanence.

A selection of their own Noah's Art Images are currently being exhibited in Boliqueime (see advert on page 16) to correspond with the launching of their on line gallery, where you can purchase high quality archival images. [www.theimagelocker.com](http://www.theimagelocker.com)

They also print limited editions for artists by either photographing the art at the artist's, or their own, studio. Their team photographer Gill, has to take a perfect professional shot to create the best results. They then work with a qpcard colour management system, perfecting the calibration of colour and brightness to the original piece.

With Giclée, editions can be printed on demand, as they are required.

Professional photographers also employ them to enlarge and print their work. Pete, the team's printer, has worked for photographers for over 30 years. His skills in a black and white lab in London allowed him to work with many well known names,

winning numerous awards for his work. Pete is especially proud to have worked with The National Geographic Society, bringing rare historical plates to life, which were shot by Herbert Ponting, on the first Antarctic exploration with Captain Scott.

You don't need to be a professional photographer to have your favourite photograph printed by Giclée Portugal. Perhaps you have an original image that you would love to reproduce for your wall at home, or at work. Giclée mixed media prints allow them to create stunning effects, just for you.

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## Catherines Nail & Soap bar

New season, new colours, new bath and skin care products.

Even though Catherines Nail & Soap Bar is in its ninth year, new products constantly find their way on to their shelves.

Firstly, new lacquer colours from the world-renowned O-P-I brand. With over 100 colours to choose from with lovely bright and sparkly ones for Christmas, the choice is immense. Their 'Bomb Cosmetics' range already has many parabens and SLS free products, but Catherines are delighted to showcase their fantastic selection of

organic products.

As more people are becoming more skin and health aware, it is very exciting to be able to offer a truly natural range. Manicures and pedicures are still firm favourites, particularly in the build up to Christmas, so pop in to make an appointment, or pick up a gift voucher.

With presents available from as little as €2 to bespoke gift boxes, the perfect Christmas gift can also be found at Catherines. Travessa 1 de Maio, 11, 8600-772 Lagos (just off the second square). Telephone 282 761264.



## IBC Security launches their personal emergency and security service

On the evening of Thursday 25 December IBC Security gave an open evening at their Quinta Verde offices on the launch of their latest security product - IBC Guardian. People from a cross section of the business and private sector were met by IBC Security management and members of their elite fast response team that patrols and responds to emergency situations within the Golden Triangle and adjoining areas.

The evening began with a video highlighting the training and close team work activities of the IBC Security guarding vigilantes and their fast response services.

The host, Adela Clark formally opened the evening by welcoming their visitors and introduced Jack Harvey, director of IBC Security. Adela then introduced a promotional video by 'Triplesky Productions' showing the development of IBC Security, which was followed by

Jack who gave a brief but informative background of the security concepts that had created 'IBC Guardian', highlighting the close working relationship with Vodafone Communications and their technical departments that contributed to its creation.

This was followed by the 'Guardian' promotional video.

Jack then explained the 'Guardians' operation, where in the event of an emergency, by pressing the red central button,

the device is immediately activated and a coded message sent and received by the dedicated IBC Security monitoring centre's 'Guardian' computer linked directly into a 'google earth' local area map.

The user's personal details are immediately displayed on the google map and the exact coordinates and location of the user established. Simultaneously GPS coordinates are sent to the patrolling fast response team ve-

hicle's satellite navigation system.

In the meantime the central operator has opened up direct two-way communications through the 'Guardian' unit to the user to identify the emergency and provide assurance that the response team is on the way.

Throughout the 'event' the central operator remains in communication with the user and the fast response team until contact is made, at which point if any additional emergency services are re-

quired these will be contacted and deployed.

Jack and Adela concluded the opening presentation by emphasising that 'Guardian' has been designed and produced to provide the fastest possible response service to any personal emergency within IBC Security's operational areas.

More detailed information on IBC Guardian can be obtained from ibc security on 289 093 344, e-mail [info@ibcsecurity.com](mailto:info@ibcsecurity.com).



# Beja denies overshooting budget

"There has been no overrun of the budget. Quite the contrary, there has in fact been a reduction on the costs [initially] announced", State Secretary Campos told Lusa News Agency.

According to the statesman, significant savings have been made on the €33 million budget that was originally announced. So far, he said, only €30 million had been needed to upgrade the airport and its runway to make it adequate for public use.

Beja Airport was originally a military Air Force base that the multi-million euro investment has converted into a civil international airport. It is seen as a potential economy-booster for the Alentejo region, though main road and rail links connecting it to Lisbon or the Algarve are yet to take shape. It has also been described as of strategic importance for both regional and national tourism and due to the size of its runway – over three kilometres in length – could eventually accommodate long-haul aircraft such as the wide-body Airbus A340 or the high-body Boeing 747.

The State Secretary clarified that an additional investment of €39 million that the TC claimed would be necessary "to make the airport operational" and "cover management deficits until 2015", would in fact only be necessary "for a second phase of the run-

This weekend State Secretary for Public Work Paulo Campos denied that the budget calculated for the renovation of Beja Airport was exceeded and said that an estimated additional €39 million calculated by the Accounts Tribunal (TC) to make the airport operational was "imaginary" and would only be necessary should an extension of the runway be required.



A recent photo of the entrance to Beja Airport. (The Portugal News / Carrie-Marie Bratley)

way's expansion".

"The €39 million that is said to be necessary to open this airport is absolutely imaginary. Whatever needed to be done has

been done, now all that is needed are small adjustments, mostly for certification's sake", he said.

According to the TC, so far total costs for the airport have

exceeded €35.4 million, 1.3 million more than initially predicted.

The TC said in a statement that it believes the airport is "already somewhat compromised",

given its lack of certification and defining of airport taxes, as well as achieving investment and contracts from airlines.

Despite utmost efforts, "in-

terest from airlines has been poor", as there "is no concession that ultimately defines the nature and dimension of the support services and respective prices", the TC stressed.

The airport was initially expected to open in 2008, serving commercial and cargo flights, but it is now expected to start its services in the summer of 2011. Earlier this year, in July, airport management company ANA said the airport would be operational as of March 2011.

In 2009 it was expected to be up and running sometime during 2010.

Early reports had suggested Beja would be an exclusively 'low-cost' airport, with Irish airline Ryanair being indicated as its key carrier. Ryanair spokespersons have said the airline is "in constant negotiations" with many European airports, though have repeatedly denied any agreement with Beja has been reached.

In 2009 the head of the Beja Airport Development Company EDAB José Queiroz told **The Portugal News** that, on opening, the airport would have the capacity to process up to 1.5 million passengers per year, offer the flexibility to cater for double that amount with subsequent growth.

It would receive a maximum of 10-12 flights per day, "to start with", and has a cargo storage capacity of 30-40 tons, which could be tripled with demand, he said.

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Supporters of All Pakistan Minority Alliance (APMA) shout slogans for the release of Asia Bibi. (Photo: EPA/Rahat Dar)

## Lisbon lawmaker 'repudiates' Pakistan blasphemy death sentence

The chairman of the Portuguese parliament's Foreign Affairs Commission said late last week he had written to Pakistan's ambassador protesting a Pakistani court's death sentence for a Christian woman found guilty of

blasphemy.

José Ribeiro e Castro told Lusa News Agency he "repudiated" the court's ruling and sought "clemency" for the 45-year-old mother of five, Asia Bibi, in his letter to Ambassador

Gul Haneef.

"It's a particularly shocking case", the lawmaker said, adding that there were signs that the Pakistani president could commute the death sentence.

TPN/Lusa

## Potter mania pulls in the masses

The new 'Harry Potter' movie 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows' drew in more than 200,000 spectators during its first week of screening in Portugal, where its popularity has proved to be on a par with opening week's in other countries.

Statistics from the Institute for Cinema and Audiovisuals showed that between 18 and 24 November 200,065 people flocked to Portuguese cinemas to

see the first installment of the two-part film.

Over the first four days of showing, from Thursday to Sunday, traditionally the busiest days for new films, 160,316 cinema-goers saw the movie.

During the first week of screening the film grossed an estimated €939,000 at 118 ticket offices throughout Portugal.

Directed by David Yates and with still photography by Portu-

guese Eduardo Serra, 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows' has been filmed in two parts, the second part scheduled to premier in July 2011.

In the United States and Canada, during its first weekend of screening the movie took more than €91 million at the box office.

Overall it earned €149 million from 54 countries in the first three days that it was shown.

## TAP bomb threat

Last Thursday, a TAP flight en-route from Paris to Lisbon was forced to turn around mid-flight and return to the French capital following a "generic threat against its safety."

An official TAP source told Lusa News Agency that sometime after flight TP447 had departed from Paris authorities received an anonymous phone call making a "very vague threat", claiming TAP shouldn't let any

of its flights depart or "something terrible" would happen.

As the flight in question had already taken off, "the captain was informed [of the threat] by the [control] tower and decided the flight should turn back."

The same source explained that it is standard procedure in such situations for a safety committee to meet. In this case the committee did not find the threats to be credible, but the pilot none-

theless thought it better for the aircraft to turn back and be checked.

The aircraft was searched but "nothing was detected."

"A more thorough safety check" was carried out as a result of the threat, but operations continued to "run as normal", the source said.

The flight landed safely in Lisbon four hours after its expected arrival time.

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# Discrimination affects 1 in 4 senior citizens



One in four Portuguese people over 65 has been a victim of age-related discrimination, according to a European Social study published earlier this month.

The study, which was carried out in 30 European countries showed that younger people are the main victims of ageism in richer countries.

European figures show that half of all 14 to 25 year olds responding to the study said that they have been victims of ageism, while only 32 percent of the elderly said the same.

In Portugal however the trend is reversed, with only 15 percent of people under the age of 30 saying they have been victims of ageism and 25 percent of the elderly.

Luisa Lima, researcher for the work and company sciences in-

stitute (ISCTE) told Lusa News Agency: "Portugal has a different characteristic to other countries: young people don't complain, compared to the elderly."

The study also shows that poverty is often associated with old age.

"Ageism is often associated with poverty. In richer countries the elderly have totally different conditions, such as pension systems and home help that work really well," she added.

The study does not show Portugal to be a highly discriminatory country in terms of ageism, although the overall trend points to the discrimination of the eld-



A group of around 20 pensioners from Montemor-o-Novo demonstrated and shouted slogans on their arrival at the Ministry of Work and Agriculture which inaugurated the extension of the day centre for the elderly in Igrejinha (Arraiolos) on 16 November. (Foto: Lusa / Nuno Veiga)

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erly being most common.

"It is a problem for companies. During a time of social crisis, where many economists say that raising the pension age is the solution, we don't want people in the workplace to feel bad because they are discriminated against and criticised by their colleagues," said Luisa Lima.

People's perceptions of the duration of youth and the onset of old age were also part of the study, with the average showing that Europeans believe someone is no longer in their youth at the age of 39.9 years old and is old from the age of 60.

In Portugal, people consider someone to be in their youth until 35 and elderly from the age of 65.6, although the disparity from one country to another is great, with people in Cyprus and Greece for example considering someone to be in their youth up to the age of 52.

According to Mrs. Lima "these indicators show how something that seems obvious varies a lot from culture to culture, despite biological markers."

The study, which was carried out as part of the Social European Study promoted by Portugal and

the ISCTE, also shows the length of time that 'middle age' lasts, varies across Europe. In Portu-

gal, people perceive middle age to last for 31 years, compared to the European average of 22.

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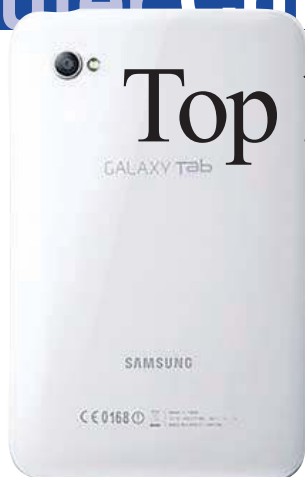
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# Top 10 Christmas Gadgets



## WildCharge wireless charging device

The WildCharge wireless charging device is an unbelievably great value gadget which relieves your room of trailing wires and overloading plug sockets. Charging gadgets has always been a chore, finding the right charger, finding an empty socket, plugging

it in, connecting the device to the charger and waiting...waiting...

But no more, the WildCharge allows you to get rid of all that time and space consuming wire, and instead, have an aesthetically acceptable device which wirelessly, yes wirelessly charges your gadgets such as an iPhone/iPod, BlackBerry or Nokia phone with just a single plug socket taken up by the WildCharge itself. It charges up to 5 devices simultaneously at the same speed as a regular wired charger so there is no sacrifice

of time. Also, there is no danger involved with this WildCharge inductive charging device which works in a similar way to charging electric toothbrushes – the electricity does not pass through the mat so you are in no more danger of electrocution than with regular chargers. Perhaps even less so as you are not fiddling with the plug sockets.

### What is inductive charging you ask?

Inductive charging is a wireless charging method used for mid-sized items such as cell phones, MP3 players and PDAs. High-end electric toothbrushes and wa-

With less than a month remaining until Christmas we are now firmly into 'crunch time' when it comes to finding great gifts for friends and loved ones. Every year the latest tech gadgets represent some of the most coveted gifts of the holiday season and this year is no exception. Whether shopping for your children or your significant other, these ten great gadget gift ideas will be sure to please even the most discerning tech-head. Over the next 3 weeks I will be discussing some of these hot Christmas gadget gifts.

Samsung Galaxy Tab



memories shared and new ones created, and photography has long been the preferred standard for preserving these memories, whether they be of people, places or even presents.

So why should the Renovo USB Photo Scanner interest you? Well over

the last number of years there has been a shift in the way people manage their photographs and many have found themselves looking for simple ways to transfer their photo albums onto their computer.

If you have the photo negatives, then you could always use a USB Photo Negative Scanner, or a standard scanner, but more often than not they deliver imperfect quality, strangely aligned edges and just generally a lot of editing is required. So, where does the Renovo USB Photo Scanner come in? Why is it any different?

Well, for starters it is designed specifically to handle 6x4 photo prints, which is recognised as a standard size for photos. The benefit of this is that feeding the photos into the scanner will result in a perfectly scanned, perfectly aligned image.

The other great aspect to the Renovo is that despite it being labelled as 'USB', it doesn't have to be connected up to your PC. Instead, simply put your SD, MMS or MS card into the built in multi-card reader and scan through your photos. The images are archived as 2-megapixel JPEG's.

The Renovo USB Photo Scanner is operated via mains and can, if you like, convert photos from print to screen wherever there is a plug socket or directly onto your PC.

## Samsung Galaxy Tab

I'm sure you've read about the iPad, the tablet computer created by Apple that has dominated gadget lover's attention since its launch. There are other choices out there that shouldn't be ignored that aim to match the iPad's features whilst adding on a few more extras.

Tablet computers such as the Samsung Galaxy Tab offer a portable alternative to laptops and the even smaller laptop-like notebooks. Modern tablets use a touch screen for navigation and input – allowing your finger to replace the need for any additional hardware such as a keyboard or mouse. This means you receive a much smaller product with a refreshingly simple method of interaction, which appeals to everyone no matter the age – even if you and computers generally don't get along.

The Samsung Galaxy Tab is sleek, sexy and powerful. Perfect for checking your emails, browsing the web, playing games, watching high definition videos, listening to music, checking your favourite social networks and even reading your favourite books. It runs the latest version of Android, meaning that you can view the web in all its glory, Flash included. Featuring a colourful 73 inch crystal clear high-resolution touch screen, 3Mp (Megapixel) rear camera with flash, 1.3Mp front-facing camera for video conferencing and a 1GHz CPU, the Samsung Galaxy Tab is loaded with essential tools for work, entertainment and it even has phone capabilities.

## LaCie Rugged Biometric External Hard Drive

For a while now, LaCie have provided extremely secure portable, external storage with their Rugged range. Now though, they have added to the range with an even safer method of storage, which not only provides a rugged outer layer, but also features a fingerprint scanner for access, which begs the question, why don't more devices include such simple technology?

The LaCie Rugged Safe Portable 500GB Hard Drive is now officially the safest hard drive on the market. It features 128-bit AES hardware encryption and biometric fingerprint authentication and offers multiple levels of data protection from all sorts of threats. Not only that, the military grade shock proof enclosure means that dropping it or even hurling it at something hard, is unlikely to cause any loss of data.



LaCie Rugged Biometric External Hard Drive

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## Renovo USB Photo Scanner

At this time of year there are of course a lot of photos taken,



Renovo USB Photo Scanner



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I have a dream, three, in fact – as miserly Ebenezer Scrooge is forced to reflect on his Past, face the Present and consider his Future options in this frivolous – and at times darkly humorous version of Charles Dickens' Christmas Carol. The play is set in the drear days of the 1930s depression, but there is nothing dreary about the three – no! four spirits (because the Future can go at least two ways...), indeed, a Tree of Life motif links Past, Present and Future – and results in some startling costumes.



For more information or to book call:  
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## 3 Charities Christmas Market



The 3 Charities Christmas Market taking place at Vale do Lobo on Sunday, 5 December, will delight visitors with all five senses as they stroll around the exhibitors' amazing array of luxury and affordable items.

Taste wines from Quinta do Barranco Longo, Adega do Cantor, Cortes de Cima and Prime Wines, plus organic food from Mercaria Bio, smoked salmon from John Ketley, mince pies, crepes and mussels from Bistrot des Z' Artes, Indian aromas and tastes from O Pelicano, gourmet cupcakes from De Verdade, homemade jams from Jams & Such, honey from DoChumbinho, traditional German delicacies from Fine Dining In Style and French specialties from Chez Carole e Manuel. All of these and more can be found in the International Food Kitchen where you can eat, drink and be merry.

For lovers of high end fashion, see the beautiful new lines and accessories from South Africa brought to you by Pica Pica Boutique, fashions by Jouk, Indian fashion by Opium and exquisite Christmas gifts by La Dolce Vita and, for the perfect footwear to complete your outfit, shoes by Cacau Boutique.

For the home, feast your eyes on the perfect pieces for special places from Glamorous Ornaments and beautiful home decorations and furniture from Casa Curiosa, whilst for a touch of the warm and sexy treat yourself to a hot tub from Good Life Spas.

And a home is not complete without the beautiful smell of Christmas flowers by Suzannah, scented candles from Joia do Sul, and soft-to-the touch linens, duvets, throws and dressing robes from Linen etc.

Visitors can also treat themselves to a pampering facial, manicure or pedicure from The Beauty Club. Get into the Christmas spirit listening to the angelic voices of the choir or the performances from Alison Blair and Nostalgia, and be in with a chance to win a luxury prize from their favourite exhibitor, who have all given gifts for the raffle, with all proceeds going to the 3 charities involved: Wolf Valley Charity Fund which provides support and finance to needy causes in the Vale do Lobo area; ACCA, a charity that supports underprivileged children and their families in the region; and Madrugada which supports people with life-limiting illnesses and provides palliative care for homes throughout the Algarve.

The Christmas market starts at 11 am and entrance is free, although an optional donation of €3 on the door will give you a glass of wine from Cortes de Cima and a Christmas mince pie from Jonnie at Bistrot des Z' Artes.

The market takes place in the

Auditorium and gardens of Parque do Golf at Vale do Lobo. Parking & shuttle buses will be

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# Pre-1755 Lisbon recreated with 3D model



The ancient city of Lisbon which was decimated by the 1755 earthquake can now be visited thanks to a virtual 3D recreation installed in Lisbon Museum, *Museu da Cidade*.

Specialists from Lisbon Town Hall and the museum spent five years making the virtual city, which includes detailed plans of key areas such as Paço da Ribeira, Terreiro do Paço, Rua Nova dos Ferros, Convento do Carmo and Palácio das Necessidades as they were prior to the earthquake, which killed around 10,000 people.

Project coordinator João Sarmento told Lusa News Agency: "We were able to create the realistic 3D model with textures and animation of some areas of Lisbon city thanks to data collected by the scientific team. Much of the animation is very detailed."

He added that the research involved hundreds of sources such as maps, archaeological sources, books and drawings.

Ana Leite, director of the Lisbon Museum said that the project is very important for both the museum and national heritage as it allows everyone to see how the city was before the earthquake which struck on 1 November.

"People can see the city in a different way than they were able to until now, as before they only had paintings and drawings," she said, adding that the 3D model will be "an important instrument for research."



The public presentation of 'Lisbon 1755. The city on the verge of an earthquake' a project which took five years to be created by members of the Lisbon City Museum. The 3D model shows a recreation of Lisbon and how it would have looked the day before the earthquake struck in 1755. (Photo: António Cotrim/Lusa)

## Biggest national allotment under construction

Lisbon Town Hall has started construction on the country's largest urban allotment in Vale de Chelas, part of a project that will include training for local residents in horticultural and organic agriculture.

According to councillor José Sá Fernandes, the allotment park occupies a total area of around 15 hectares, 6.5 hectares of which will be used for vegetable gardens, with a total of 400 initial plots of 150 square metres each.

A number of plots will be given to around 100 existing allotment users, with the rest being awarded through public tender next year.

The first part of the project, which includes landscaping the area, opening footpaths and introducing irrigation pipes is due to be completed in the first half of 2011.

"Providing adequate water for the vegetables is the most basic part of this project, which will end the serious public health risk of people using waste water in times of drought," said the councillor.

The Town Hall will place fencing between the plots, plant hedges and supply sheds, while a children's play park and kiosk with an esplanade are planned for the future.

According to the town hall spokesman, this initiative is aimed at organising the local horticulture as well as promoting social interaction and community awareness. It will allow poor families in the area to consume fresh vegetable products as well as promote their sale locally, while town hall maintenance costs will be reduced by the community farming.

## Cascais care centres inaugurated

Two community care centres, which form part of the Cascais health centres and include a team of 12 nurses, were opened on 25 November.

These centres, named Cascais Care and Girasol will serve 220,000 people who live in the Cascais area.

Helena Costa, Director of the local health centres told Lusa News Agency that the new centres were created "with the aim of providing health care in the community for those who are more vul-

nerable, who do not have a family doctor, special neighbourhoods and to those with social integration problems in a large area."

The Cascais Care centre is situated in the Alcáideche health care centre and will focus on that area as well as Estoril and Cascais, while the Girasol Centre is located in the Parede health

centre and will provide care in the community in the remaining parishes.

Helena Costa added that the focus of the team of nurses will be on maternal and infant health, school health, after-care, community intervention, domestic violence and the commission of the protection of children and youths.

## Wikileaks - Portugal mentioned in two of 280 documents already published



Portugal is mentioned in two of 280 documents already published on Monday by website Wikileaks out of a cache of 250,000 US diplomatic cables, according to a Lusa News Agency review.

Both documents date from 2009. One of them was issued by the US Embassy in Brussels and refers to a briefing by interim US Assistant Secretary Daniel Glaser about terrorist financing, which was attended by Portuguese officials.

The cable notes that the Portuguese were concerned that further sanctions against Iran ahead of presidential elections might strengthen Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's bid for re-election.

The other cable was sent from the US Tripoli Embassy and focuses on Libyan leader Muammar al-Gadhafi, mentioning details of his trip to Lisbon, including visa delays.

The cache of 250,000 documents which Wikileaks and news outlets began releasing Monday is known to include 722 cables sent from the US Lisbon Embassy.

TPN/Lusa

## Cascais approves €170 million budget for 2011

Cascais' municipal assembly approved the municipality's 2011 budget at €170 million without any votes against on 30 November.

The proposal for the budget and long term plans up to 2014 for Cascais were voted in favour by the Social Democrats (PSD) and the Popular Party (CDS-PP), while the Socialists (PS), the Left Bloc and the Portuguese Communist Party (PCP) abstained.

Prior to the vote, the deputy mayor of Cascais, Carlos Carreiras, said that the budget was different "because times have changed", with this being "the lowest budget in 10 years, and €35 million less than last year."

He added that to create the new budget, all expenses and revenues were examined, while all future expenditure will be questioned in terms of its social,

economic and environmental efficiency.

Despite the cuts, next year's budget includes the creation of a €1.5 million emergency social fund to prevent a worsening of the social situation in the municipality, while the number of municipal companies has also been reduced from 11 to five.

As part of longer term plans up to 2014, investments have been set at eight million euros for education, €7.7 million for social action and €15.4 million for infrastructure.

Cascais' municipal assembly also approved a short term loan of €10 million, with votes in favour from the PSD, CDS-PP, PS and CDU with abstention from the leftist party.

## Emergency help system for the elderly



Around 175 elderly people in Oeiras can now contact their local civil protection service by using a necklace with a button that when pressed allows communication with the dedicated call centre.

According to Oeiras councillor Elisabete Oliveira, this service provided by the Town Hall consists of "a medallion which can be used as a bracelet or necklace, that has an alarm button that is linked to the telephone and to a call centre in the Municipal Police office."

"Whether the person feels unwell or hears something strange on the stairs, but they cannot reach a telephone, all they have to do is press the button and they will immediately be responded to by the Municipal Police service," she said.

From the moment the button is pressed, the call is sorted depending on the level of urgency. If it is an emergency, the fire brigade is called, if someone feels a little unwell then a member of their family is called and if it is a security matter then the PSP police are called by the call centre.

Despite this helpline system being used by people "who are around 60 or older," Mrs. Oliveira said that the beneficiaries of this project are mostly people who feel alone rather than old people.

"These are people who at their age understand what it is to live on their own and the risks associated with it," she said, adding: "it allows many people to stay in their homes instead of moving to care homes, because despite living alone, they are not isolated."

The medallion, which costs €204 is installed in a users home through the telephone line without any additional cost or maintenance fees. For people who may require the system but cannot afford the cost, Oeiras Town Hall refers them to the social security office, which subsidises their medallion.

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# Algarve offers Prince William a Portuguese honeymoon



The Regional Algarve Tourism Board (ERTA) has, via the British Ambassador, extended an invitation to Prince William and his fiancée Kate Middleton to enjoy a honeymoon in what is Portugal's most popular tourist destination.



Courtesy of the ERTA, in 2011 Prince William and his fiancée could be joining the millions of other Brits who every year flock to the Algarve for the sun and its laid-back lifestyle.

The official invitation has been sent to Ambassador Alex Ellis, who will forward it on to the Royal Family.

According to Nuno Aires, head of the ERTA, the gesture

"honours the close relationship between the UK and Portugal, as well as the old British tradition of spending holidays or living in our region."

In the document given to Ambassador Ellis, Nuno Aires congratulates the Royal Family on the wedding announcement and sends his best wishes of "joy and happiness" to the newly engaged couple.

Prince William and Catherine – as she will now be called – are to marry on 29 April, coincidentally Saint Catherine's Day, at Westminster Abbey, London. Prince William has visited the Algarve before. A few years ago he was spotted holidaying in the more rural Western Algarve, where he is thought to have gone surfing.

Britain's Prince William (R) and Kate Middleton (L) during a photocall to mark their engagement in the State Rooms of St James's Palace in London, Great Britain. The royal wedding will be held on 29 April 2011. (Photo: EPA/STR)

## Immigration increases Algarve population

The number of foreigners requesting residence permits last year in the Algarve was four times higher than the national average.

According to figures released on Monday by the national statistics institute, the Algarve's population grew the most in Portugal last year. Natural population growth, which is more births than deaths, was also positive in the region at an average of 0.02%, with Albufeira (0.56%) and Portimão (0.22%) with the highest values.

Other municipalities with positive natural growth included Faro (0.10%), Lagoa (0.11%), Lagos (0.14%), Loulé (0.11%) and Olhão (0.11%). Areas which had more deaths than births in the region last year include Alcoutim (-2.09%), Monchique (-1.17%) while Aljezur, Castro Marim, São Brás de Alportel, Silves, Tavira, Vila do Bispo and Vila Real de Santo António were all below one percent.

Meanwhile, the municipalities of Aljezur, Albufeira and Lagos welcomed the most foreign residents in 2009 at 3.36%, 3.22% and 3.16% respectively.

Throughout the Algarve, only Alcoutim and São Brás de Alportel are below the national average of 0.58% for the influx of immigrants. The remaining municipalities all saw above average immigration, with figures doubling in Olhão and Vila Real de Santo António and tripling in Faro, Castro Marim, Lagoa, Loulé, Monchique, Portimão, Silves, Tavira and Vila do Bispo.

There are also slightly more men than women in the Algarve, although women outnumber men in Vila Real de Santo António, Portimão, Olhão, Lagos and Faro.

In some areas there are up to 5,000 more men than women between the ages of 25 and 64, although women dominate in the population above 75 years old.

## Carvoeiro Christmas Fair

Carvoeiro will be hosting its first Christmas Fair between 12 and 19 December in an effort to turn the tide on the economic crisis and encourage residents and visitors to buy their Christmas gifts in local shops rather than shopping centres.

Members of the Business and Residents Association of Carvoeiro have been working hard to organise and promote the town's first Christmas Fair, which will be held in the town square near the beach.

The event, which will be open daily from midday until 7pm will include stalls selling Christmas sweets, roast chestnuts, handicrafts, and much more.

On 12 December, the fair will open with a Christmas street parade at 2pm, followed by a magic show at 2.30pm, a Children's Christmas show at 3.15pm and a final show at 4pm. On 13 December, there will be live music daily at the fair from local bands such as David and Brendan from the Jail House Bar, Beto Kalulu, Rui Sax, Pedro Frias, Ilze and Ricardo Sousa.

As well as the fair, the association is also promoting a festive

window display competition. Shops and businesses throughout the town are encouraged to decorate their windows for Christmas, to attract people to visit the town as well as provide some festive spirit in Carvoeiro, which will not receive any Christmas lighting this year. The best 'dressed' shop window will receive a prize.

As well as this, the association is also promoting a 'Christmas Window Campaign' with associations, schools and businesses being invited to decorate a disused shop window, which will live up the town as well as provide free publicity to the participants.

For more information about these festive initiatives, or if your business or association would like to decorate an empty shop window, please email: [vozesintensas@gmail.com](mailto:vozesintensas@gmail.com) or telephone Graça Novo on 919 469 285.

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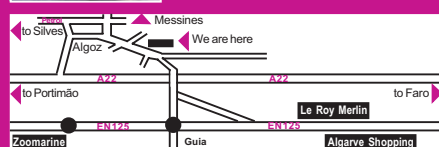
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# Protests against A22 toll proposal



A slow moving protest which took place on the A22 motorway, also known as the Via do Infante, against government proposals to introduce tolls caused traffic congestion around Faro on 26 November.

Around 20 vehicles, belonging to a protest group called the Commission of Via do Infante Users, caused a traffic jam several kilometres in length during the slow protest near Faro.

During the demonstration, the second to have been organised so far, members of the group brandished posters with slogans such as "tolling the Via do Infante will cause accidents" and "The Al-

garve won't pay tolls on the A22."

Hélder Raimundo, a member of the group told Lusa News Agency: "We think that the tolls will push everyone onto the EN125, which we know, even if it is renovated, is not an alternative."

Another protest group member, João Vasconcelos said that the action shows that "people in

the Algarve will not just sit by and watch tolls being introduced."

"The Algarve is going through a lot of difficulty and it will be in more crisis as families and businesses will suffer from the introduction of tolls on the motorway," he added.

A petition against the tolls on the A22 has already gained more than 10,000 signatures.

The protest group, which was set up in September is appealing to everyone who lives in the region to take part in the action before tolls are introduced on 15 April.

"The commission is open to all political forces. We hope that AMAL and its President Macário Correia will also give us their support because this is a fight for all Algarveans," said João Vasconcelos.

If you would like to sign the petition against the tolls on the A22, please visit <http://viadoinfante2010.blogspot.com>.



Pictured here is the electronic device users of the A22 motorway will have to install on their licence plates by no later than 15 April, 2011. (Photo: Arménio Belo / Lusa)

## IKEA plans to open store in Loulé in 2015

Swedish home store brand IKEA announced that it is due to sign a contract with Loulé Town Hall on 2 December for the opening of an Inter IKEA shopping centre in 2015.

IKEA spokeswoman Ana Teresa told Lusa News Agency that the contract "confirms the Swedish company's intention to carry out a project in the Algarve before 2015 and bring the brand to more Portuguese people."

Representatives from Loulé Town Hall such as the mayor Seruca Emídio, Kristina Johansson from IKEA Portugal and Richard Vathaire, Managing Director for Southern Europe of the Inter IKEA Centre Group were due to sign the cooperation contract at around 11am on 2 December at the town hall. The project described in the contract includes the construction of an IKEA store as well as a shopping centre and retail park.

According to media reports, IKEA is due to invest €200 million in the region as well as create 3,000 direct and indirect jobs.

The Loulé Mayor told Lusa News Agency earlier this year

that the project will have a 120,000 square metre construction area, with the group already having bought around 40 hectares of land in the area for the project that will offer entertainment, food, cinemas and more.

IKEA's future expansion plans for Portugal include a total investment of more than €660 million and the opening of seven stores; three in the greater Lisbon area, two near Oporto, one in the south of the country and one in the centre. A further two Inter IKEA shopping centres and three Swedwood Group factories are also planned for Paços de Ferreira.

Meanwhile, a further €400 million is also due to be invested in Loulé with a project from the Auchan Group named *Alegro Algarve*. This is due to create 4,000 direct jobs in a 40 hectare area between Loulé and the road to Quarteira.

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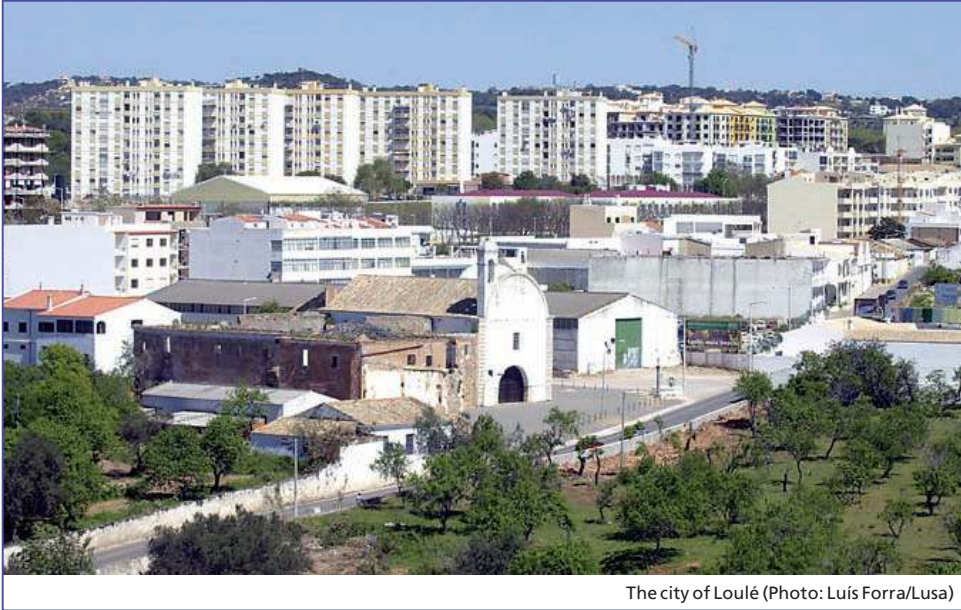
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The city of Loulé (Photo: Luís Forra/Lusa)

## Loulé approves reduced municipal taxes for 2011



Despite a fall in tax revenue, Loulé's municipal assembly has approved the Town Hall's proposal to maintain reduced municipal taxes in 2011 as well as reduce them in inland parishes as an incentive for local residents not to move away.

According to a statement from Loulé Town Hall, the municipal real estate tax also known as IMI will remain fixed at 0.68%, while buildings evaluated under the municipal real estate tax code (CIMI) will remain at 0.36%.

Taking into account the 2001 census results which showed progressive population loss in the municipality's interior parishes, a 30% reduction of IMI taxes was ap-

proved for Alte, Ameixal, Benafim, Querença, Salir and Tôr.

Also in a bid to combat population decline in Loulé's countryside, people between the ages of 18 and 35 who purchase property will be exempt from the IMT tax in the same parishes.

"During times of crisis, these initiatives are of special importance to the residents of Loulé," said the statement.

## Water bills reduced for thousands of Faro families



Around 12,000 families will see their water bills reduced by five to 10 Euros per month in 2011 according to Faro mayor, Macário Correia.

Around 40 percent of clients from the municipal water company Fagar will see their bills reduced next year, especially those who consume the least amounts of water as well as poorer people such as pensioners and large families or those with many children.

According to Macário Correia,

a household that uses up to six cubic metres of water per month will see a reduction of 15 percent on their bill, while reductions will also be given to large families who use up to 19 cubic metres of water. He added that charities, non-profit organisations and commercial establishments will also benefit from the measure.

In contrast, around 1,000 consumers who use high quantities of water will see their bills suffer "slight increases" next year in a bid to avoid wastage of water. This will affect clients with swimming pools, car washes and gardens.

"In effect it means that those who have more income contribute to those who have the most difficulties," said Macário Correia, adding that domestic consumers who use an "extremely large" amount of water, more than 26 cubic metres per month, will see an increase of 15 percent on their bills.

## Up to 6,000 could die in the Algarve in the event of a large earthquake, say officials

Should an earthquake with the magnitude of that from 1755 hit the Algarve, up to 6,000 people could be killed, according to a simulation that was carried out to test the emergency response systems on 29 November.

According to acting Faro Civil Governor Silva Gomes: "The worse that will happen in the simulation scenario is that there will in fact be that many deaths. We are referring to a simulation similar to the 1755 earthquake which is the worse case scenario."

He went on to explain: "we do realise that when such a situation occurs it will take a long time to resolve, not the eight hours that we are practising," he said.

The Civil Governor, who is also responsible for the Algarve's Civil Protection authority admits that the simulation is not 100 percent effective, but it provides a very good indication of what would happen in such an event.

"The first thing we must also stress is that we have a new and innovative seismic risk and tsunami simulator, which allows us to calculate scenarios and prepare for them. Until very recently, we didn't have this instrument and everything was done on guess work," he added.

According to Vaz Pinto, regional commander of emergency operations, aside from the number of deaths, an earthquake of magnitude

would also affect communication, with the Algarve being without landlines or mobile telephone signal.

In the emergency command centre, which was set up in tents and trucks in Faro's indoor supply market, members of the regional and national civil protection authority practised the coordination of a regional response to an earthquake disaster, with help of security forces and fire brigades from across the Algarve.

This simulation, which was classified as a command post exercise aimed to test the procedures of the Special Emergency Seismic Risk and Tsunami Plan of the Algarve, which is almost complete.

Although the security forces did not actually go anywhere, the simulation tested the coordination and command efforts in the event of a disaster.

As well as deaths, the simulation also showed that there would be between 11,815 and 32,654 people made homeless. It also showed the areas that could be worst affected by an earthquake in terms of deaths, injuries and homelessness, allowing for a more efficient coordination of the response teams.

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## Happy Feet - Care for your feet

For a solution to problematic feet or simply a relaxing foot massage, look no further than Happy Feet in Alvor.

Having taken a professional course in body relaxing massage and having experience in pedicure, Carmen Becker established Happy Feet in Alvor, offering clients more than a regular foot treatment.

Her services include removing hard-skin, cutting and filing, treating ingrown toe nails and performing foot relaxing massages.

Having many regular customers of several nationalities from all around the Algarve, Carmen says they all come back for more as her treatments are very relaxing, most of her clients nodding off whilst experiencing the soothing foot massage.

Carmen says a lot of people suffer from bad feet without even realising it. Most cases can be dealt with easily by using simple but effective techniques to cure the problems, many don't even realise the extent of the problems that are infesting their feet.

A normal foot service costs €25, but she can also do a simple pedicure for €15, although it is not advisable as the foot massage, included in the normal, is one of the highlights of the session.

Treatment times depend on the



conditions of the feet, normally lasting around an hour.

Carmen does do home visits when people can't come in, at no extra charge, from Lagos to Lagoa.

Having feet treatment seems inappropriate for some people, the thought alone of their feet being massaged provoking queasiness, but once they get past the 'laughing when touched' stage, it can prove to be a very effective stress reliever and also bring great benefits.

Carmen has seen all sorts of feet, so no problem will be too much for her to bear. She loves to take care of feet and says it is better to fix problems rather than letting them worsen over the years.

She has all the tools necessary to carry out treatments and the equipment is sterilised after each session.

Happy Feet is open Monday to Saturday from 9:00am until 8:00pm but it is advisable to make an appointment as Carmen might be on a house call.

## Step into the Christmas spirit with Party Land

Packed with literally everything and anything one could ever need to throw a fabulous party, Party Land is the place to go to prepare for the winter season festivities.

The shop now has in stock a variety of Christmas decorations as well as party essentials such as crackers, foil balloons, father and mother Christmas suits as well as outfits for children and a whole range of cake decorating accessories.

There's no need to rush around after Christmas either, as Party Land is already prepared to get your New Year's eve to the perfect start with decorations, party kits, festive items and more!

Carol Teixeira decided to open the store, which is part of an American franchise, last year when she realised that the Party Land concept was new and ideal for Portugal. Today Party Land has not only physical stores but has launched a successful e-commerce, proving to be at the forefront in this area of business.

"And above all, it is real fun being in the Party Supplies and balloon decoration business".

Party Land has all one could imagine and need for a party. From balloon decorations to an extensive cake accessories section (for those who want to do their own cakes at home), thousands of balloons and also helium...everything you need for a party!

As well as seasonal party decorations for special occasions like Hal-



loween, Christmas, Carnival and Easter, Party Land also supplies all you need for children's birthday parties, weddings and Christenings.

Home deliveries are available as well as an in-situ decoration service; "Anything the client wants really," said Carol.

Products can be ordered online and sent to practically anywhere in Portugal.

The owners are highly qualified in balloon training; Carol has honours in Tourism-Marketing and extensive balloon decorating training.

In the run up to Christmas, Party Land is open from Monday to Saturday, 10am until 8pm, and on Sundays from 10am until 6pm throughout December. Party Land will be open on the bank holidays of 1 and 8 December and Christmas Eve until 5pm but will close all day Christmas day.

## The perfect games room, by FJ North

Designing a games room may be one of the most enjoyable aspects of planning a soon-to-be built house or determining how to use the space of a newly purchased home. It is just a matter of what you want, what you can afford and where you can put it. FJ North, designers and suppliers of games room equipment in the Algarve for nearly 30 years, provides the following seven steps to designing a games room:

**Step 1 - Decide on your budget and what you want to put in the room.** A pool table is a games room staple, new ones are available at around €1,500 and reconditioned ones at around €700. A good foosball table can be bought for less than €600 and a table tennis table for €395. Cheaper items can be found but always check the quality and ask yourself whether the saying "buy cheap, buy twice" will apply.

**Step 2 - Budget your space.** More room is needed for a snooker table than a foosball table or arcade cabinet. If you are building a home, decide what you want to put in it and then you will know how big the room needs to be. If you are buying an existing home determine how much space you will have and plan the items in the games room around that.

**Step 3 - Decide on the style of the room:** ultra-modern, traditional or somewhere in between. Apart from the traditional black, mahogany,



cherry and oak finishes, pool tables are now available in silver, white and high gloss black. Traditional green or blue cloths have now made way for purple, flash red and even black cloths, which can be printed with emblems, names and images at additional cost.

**Step 4 - Plan the placement of electrical outlets in the room** if you want to add electronics such as arcade games or pool table lights to your games room.

**Step 5 - Use a dart board with a cabinet.** This will keep most errant throws from sticking into your wall.

**Step 6 - If you do not have the space inside your home,** there are plenty of outdoor pool and table tennis tables to choose from as well as garden trampolines.

**Step 7 - Always choose a games room company with a good reputation** to ensure that items will be delivered on time, undamaged and installed correctly. Do not be afraid to ask for client references and always check the items after installation but before paying the balance.

### This Week's profiles:



## Happy Feet

Happy Feet is located just a few yards from the church along Rua 25 de Abril in Alvor. For an appointment call Carmen on 966 237 330 or email happy-feet@gnt.cc.



## FJ North

For further information please contact Suzi on 912 264 905, Steve on 917 846 242, email at info@fjnorth.net or download the brochures at www.fjnorth.net.



## Fires of Portugal

For more information, contact Fires of Portugal on: (+351) 289 489 958, mobile: 967 721 209, email: sales@firesofportugal.com, or see website: www.firesofportugal.com.



Autumn has brought with it a characteristic chill that marks the beginning of winter. Nights are longer, mornings are nipper and a different type of cosiness descends on homes as families endeavour to keep warm. And with Christmas just around the corner, now is the ideal time to think about somewhere to hang the stocking. As well as heat the home.

Not only do fires create a welcoming ambience but there's also a relaxing type of romance associated to them.

Fires of Portugal, a family-run business based in Salir, specialises in helping households choose the best possible 'real' fire solution for their homes; a bespoke service tailored from 10 years of solid experience in the Algarve, all done on site.

A good fire relies on proper installation to ensure all aspects tie together. Before Geoff leaves he smoke-tests every one of his installations.

"It's not just in winter that a fire is welcome in the Algarve, Autumn and Spring can be pretty chilly too", explained Carol, wife of Geoff Waller, co founders of Fires of Portugal.

Over the past decade Fires of Portugal have built up a remarkable portfolio; their catalogue of well-sourced models of wood-burning fires, both national and international manufacturers, mean they can recommend an effective yet visually pleasing option for all homes. They specialise in two types of wood burning fire. The

traditional free standing range, mainly imported from the UK with options for heating domestic water and central heating. Then there is the well known contemporary inset fire from the very popular and locally-manufactured 'Fogo Montanha' range. They have even been exported to England by clients for clients who want one there as the Fogo Montanha is "not the norm" in England!

As well as installing fires the company also carries out chimney-sweeping, repairs, broken glass replacement and renovations.

Geoff said "Advice, recommendations and quotes on site are essential to make sure the fire does its intended job, looks good and everyone has the satisfaction of a job well done."

Fires of Portugal have achieved quite a following in their ten years of serving the Algarve; amongst their hundreds of satisfied customers are a few reclusive celebrities who seek R&R in the Algarve and choose Fires of Portugal for their heating solutions. The customised service is completed with a friendly, reliable post-sales and maintenance service, dedicated to ensuring you get as much warmth and pleasure from your fire, for as long as possible.



## Partyland

For more information, contact Carol Teixeira at Party Land on: 289 380 602 / 966 366 229; see website: www.partyland.pt, or email: solucoesalegres@gmail.com.

## Sorry...!

In last week's edition of **The Portugal News** - Trading Places, the contact number for Aqua Pura was inadvertently left out. The number is: 282 763 605. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused



## The Amigos Annual General Meeting



The Associação de Amigos de Música de São Lourenço's Committee

The AMIGOS' AGM was held at the Centro Cultural São Lourenço on 26 November. This was the 22<sup>nd</sup> AMIGOS' AGM and was very well attended. Barry Shaw, the president, reported on the events of the previous AMIGOS' year which included a splendid black tie dinner at the Centro Cultural to celebrate the AMIGOS' 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and also the Master Classes conducted by renowned British pianist Paul Crossley. He told the members that they could look forward to such famous musicians as Sa Chen, Piers Lane and Katya Apiskisheva during the coming months.

The Master Classes were made possible by the kind and generous support of the foundation, Mundo Crastino Meliori. Helga Hampton, former AMIGOS' president and now

Vice President, conceived and coordinated the Master Classes which gave 5 young pianists from Portuguese conservatories the remarkable experience of learning from a true master for nearly a week and the results were heard in two delightful concerts. One of those pianists, António Pedro Cebola, has since continued to have lessons with Paul Crossley in London co-sponsored by the Vale do Lobo Group of Companies and the AMIGOS, and gave a piano recital at the Vale do Lobo Auditorium last month.

Michael Savage, the Hon. Treasurer, presented the accounts which were approved by the members present. The AGM, under the leadership of Assembleia Geral's president, John Levitt, was conducted with his usual aplomb. All the officers of the AMIGOS' committee

retired and were re-elected for a further period of two years. In addition, Anneli Lindroos was co-opted onto the committee.

A highlight of the AMIGOS' AGMs is when the person sponsored gives a concert. Part of the AMIGOS' charter is to further the development of Portuguese musicians. Joana Ballmann, who has been sponsored now for four years, gave her farewell concert, which included music by Beethoven, Bach, Schumann, Ravel and Debussy. Joana graduates from the Cologne Conservatory in February 2011 with a BA in music. She plans to continue her post graduate studies in Berlin or Leipzig. The AMIGOS wishes her every success in her future endeavours.

Following Joana's concert we were treated to a sumptuous supper by Marie Huber and her team at the Centro Cultural.

## Sweeping changes in Bowls Portugal

Wednesday 24 November was a sad but exciting day for Bowls Portugal. Sad because President Amadeu Gil da Rocha and his Vice President Chris Maloney, who set up and developed international bowling in Portugal, announced their retirement at the AGM; but exciting because their retirement heralds new avenues of development for the Federation. With Bowls Portugal on the verge of major expansion, Amadeu and Chris felt it was appropriate for them to hand over to a new and younger team.

In paying tribute to the massive contribution Amadeu has made over the years in putting Portugal on the international bowling map, and especially as the first non-British President of the European Bowling Association, a post which he graced for

eight years, he was hailed as someone who would be impossible to replace.

With the new bowling club at Luz and the Spanish club at Isla Canela both recently joining the Federation, the way is now open to enlarge and broaden the scope of Bowls Portugal, the sole representatives of World Bowls in Portugal.

After their recent Test Match against Spain, sponsored by Eurofinesco, where the Portugal team included members of four clubs, the Federation was anxious to encompass all comers in the management structure, and this was reflected in the election results of the AGM, where officers were elected from three separate clubs.

John Hewitson (Vilamoura) was elected President of Bowls Portugal, Nick Roberts (Luz)

Vice President and Tony Gilbert (Vilamoura) Secretary, and who make up the Management Committee. On the General Assembly Committee Alison Roberts (Luz) was elected President, David Labanti (Vilamoura) Vice President and Mary Banks (Valverde) Secretary, while the Fiscal Committee will comprise Stewart Banks President and Terry Kerr Vice President (both Valverde) with Kate Hewitson (Vilamoura) as Secretary.

In summing up newly elected President John Hewitson stressed that his objective was to listen to the views of Bowls Portugal members and to encourage all bowlers in Portugal to join the Federation in order to strengthen the cooperation between, and friendliness of all lawn bowlers throughout the country.

*Tony Gilbert, Secretary*



Amadeu (L) presents a commemorative plaque to Nick Burbury the Spanish Team manager.

## Algarve Bowls



### Midweek League Round 4 (24 Nov.)

The latest round of matches took place at Valverde, where the home team took on Alvor Aces. Aces just came out on top by 35-32 and took eight points to two. Table - topping PDF continued their excellent form with a 37-27 victory over Amendoeira, earning all ten points and staying ahead of the chasing pack. The third game was between the Alvor Diamonds and an Albufeira side eager to close the gap on PDF. Albufeira won 50-26 and collected a valuable nine points to one against.

PDF remain on top of the table with 30 points, Valverde are in second but eight points behind on 22. Albufeira have 21 and Aces are on 14. Diamonds have 13 points whilst Amendoeira slip to the bottom with 8 points. The final series of matches before Christmas takes place at Alvor on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December.

### Saturday Winter League Round 9 (27 Nov.)

The weather took a hand this weekend and four matches were postponed. Both matches scheduled for Alvor and also the two games at Valverde were postponed due to the heavy rain. So

Greens and Harlequins will have to reschedule at Alvor as will Amigos and Sinners. Vulcans and Panthers and Vikings and Gladiators will fight another day at Valverde. Meanwhile Albufeira Cats took full advantage of all the inactivity with a convincing victory away to the Amendoeira Nuts by 69 to 35 and yet another full house of eight points in the bag. PDF Crusaders were at home on a carpet surface unaffected by the rain and beat the visiting Tavira Tigers by 58-32 and by eight points to nil, thereby continuing their recent good form.

Cats remain out in front with 60 points and are now nine ahead of the Greens who do have a game in hand. To make the situation even more interesting, these two teams play each other next Saturday at Albufeira. PDF Crusaders also move up the table and are now third with 46 points after their clean sweep yesterday. Vikings also have 46 and a game in hand. Everything else is as you were with Harlequins on 42, Gladiators on 34 and Amigos on 31. Then come Panthers with 28 points, Tigers remain on 21 as do Vulcans with 16. Sinners stay on 13 and Amendoeira have 12 points.

*Alan Clarke - League Director*

## Irish support new centre in the Algarve

Monique Jolly, Irene Crampton and Joan Kavanagh from the Shankhill Tennis Club in Ireland presented Centre Algarve with a cheque for €2,011 at a Thanksgiving Dinner held at the centre, near Moncarapacho, last week.

The new venture, which is the brainchild of Andy Mahoney, will cater solely for those with special needs who would otherwise not get a holiday. The monies were raised at a Western Night, car boot sale and a sponsored swim by Connor McCarthy back in the emerald isle. Forty-six-year-old Connor, who attends a special needs centre in Ireland, had only learnt to swim last year but he swam 2.5kms and contributed 131 euros to the fund.

Monique Jolly, who is Dutch but lives in Ireland, said, "This project is a wonderful example of what can be achieved when people come together with an enthusiastic determination to make something happen."

Andy Mahoney said, "The support of so many hard work-

ing volunteers means we should be able to have the facility up and running by the middle of next year. We are hoping to accommodate a dozen autistic children next spring and they will help us to plan the petting zoo and sensory gardens." The Thanksgiving Dinner for twenty-seven volunteers was the idea of 20-year-old Andrea Faguant from Vermont, USA who recently spent five weeks helping at the centre and was so impressed with the project that she returned for a further two weeks. "This is a big day for us back home and it is nice to be able to celebrate Thanksgiving here in Portugal with all these fantastic people", said Andrea as she basted the turkey. Another volunteer, Jason McGlynn, from Boyle near Sligo, in the Irish Republic, master-minded the cooking.

Pictured below: (L to R) Lin Griffin, Monique Jolly, centre manager Tom Willis, Irene Crampton and Joan Kavanagh with the cheque for €2,011.



## New officials elected at The Royal British Legion AGM

On 24 November the Portugal Branch Annual General Meeting took place at the Holiday Inn Algarve in Armação de Pera. The meeting was chaired for the last time by Cdr. Ronald Goddard AFC RN (Ret'd) prior to the election of officers. Ron handed over to Mr. Desmond Briggs BEM who stepped up from the position of Vice Chairman to Chairman. Also standing down was the Hon. Secretary Mr. Paul

Wigram who handed over this position to Mrs Jackie Collins. The position of Vice Chairman was filled by Mr. Stewart Austin. Elected to the position of Portugal Branch Poppy Coordinator was Mrs. Sandra Wilkinson. Certificates of appreciation signed by Mr. Eddie Hefferman, the overseas representative on the board of trustees, were presented to the two outgoing committee members.



Pictured L. to R.: Mr. s Jackie Collins, Mr. Paul Wigram, Cdr. Ron Goddard and Mr. Des Briggs.

copy@theportugalnews.com

## Algarve Bike Rides

**Saturday, 4 December:** Bike Ride starting at Boliqueime railway station. We meet at Boliqueime railway station at 1.15pm, ready to catch the 1.24pm westbound train. This will be a moderately challenging ride on a mixture of dirt track roads and tarmac and there will be a cafe stop somewhere along the way!

**Sunday, 5 December:** Bike Ride starting in Faro. We meet at the roundabout outside Forum Algarve shopping centre in Faro at 9.45am for a 10.00am start. There is plenty of parking out-

side the 'Seaside' show shop. This will be a mostly flat and easy ride on a mixture of dirt track and tarmac roads.

**Wednesday, 8 December:** Bike Ride starting in Alcantarilha. We meet at the Aldi supermarket in Alcantarilha at 12.45pm for a 1.00pm start. This will be a moderately challenging ride on a mixture of dirt track and tarmac roads.

For more information call Paul Beesley on 913226954 or e-mail: paul.beesley@sapo.pt or you can visit 'Algarve Bike Rides' on Facebook.





## Improving horse harmony

Owners and riders of horses, who have the wellbeing of horse at heart, gathered at Pinetrees Riding Centre, Almancil, on 28 November for an informative seminar looking at the causes and effects of back problems in horses.

The 'Back to Balance' seminar was presented by two professional practitioners - Stefanie Drebing, Osteopath and Chiropractor, and Annemijn Drupsteen, Physiotherapist - who also both work with animals, and was aimed at achieving a return to a better harmony for horses, focussing on the well-being of the horse's back. Annemijn and Stefanie provided both a theoretical and biomechanical look at the issues in order to help those attending become more aware of problem signs.

Stefanie Drebing has been practising for 11 years and trained in Germany and Portugal. Annemijn Drupsteen has been practising since 2002 and trained

in Utrecht and Barneveld.

Both therapists decided to put their fees towards the www.SOSAlgarveAnimal.com fund which helps re-home abandoned dogs and spay bitches. Around €150 was collected.

Though presented in English the seminar was attended by a good mix of different nationalities from all over the Algarve and proved a most interesting subject. A pony was used to demonstrate theories and show some techniques that could be used and this was particularly interesting.

This seminar was part of Pinetrees 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary programme and more events are planned. Not only do these seminars help educate but they also bring together people of similar interests. It has to be said that there are a tremendous number of horse people in the Algarve but they are often 'isolated' and could benefit from more networking.

## Algarve Archaeological Association's next meeting

On Tuesday, 7 December the first meeting of the day will be held at the Museum of São Brás at 2.30pm. A meal will be arranged prior to the meeting. Tel. Maxine on 917 267948 to book. The second meeting is at the Convento de São José, Lagoa at 6.30pm. A meal will be arranged after the meeting for those wishing to participate.

The lecture is given by Tiago Fraga - What went wrong? An archaeological study of an 18<sup>th</sup> Century military steamer: On the evening of 27 February, 1912, a terrible accident terminated the service of Canhoneira Faro, a steam gunship, purchased by Portugal from English shipyards in 1878. Apparently discovered during the Lagos Bay Survey Project Campaign of 2007 and studied in the years that followed, this presentation reports on the

results and intriguing questions raised by the study of the nearly 100-year-old shipwreck.

Tiago Fraga is well known to the AAA and a personal friend of many members. Born in Faro, he graduated from Lisbon in History and Archaeology, followed by Master of Arts in Anthropology from Texas A and M University. Tiago is a PADI certified diver. Since 2008, he has served as Project Manager for the Underwater Cultural Heritage Survey of the Council of Lagos. Under the supervision of Tiago the AAA help sponsor a student diving training programme in the Bay of Lagos.

The lecture is given in English. Non-members are very welcome. There is a €5 admission fee. Should you wish to know more, please contact Maxine on 917 267 948.

## Algarve thespian couple retire



Actors Suzanne Jefferies and Victor Graham give their final performance in 'The Gin Game,' staged last week at the Holiday Inn Algarve, before retiring.

Commencing with D.L. Coburn's amusing play, 'The Gin Game,' the winter theatre season at the Holiday Inn Algarve in Armção de Pêra began last week. Before the show the audience enjoyed an Indian meal in the hotel's Raj Restaurant. For actors Suzanne Jefferies and Victor Graham this was a poignant last performance as the couple have decided to retire. Accomplished as ever, Algarve audiences have appreciated their professionalism and polished productions over many years.

Between now and Christmas two more shows can be enjoyed at the Holiday Inn: 'Christmas Cracker Show' - Saturday, December 4 - Angels Theatre Group - music and light entertainment. Tickets are €29 and include a buffet and wine served in the hotel's main restaurant. And 'Bah! Humbug!' - Wednesday, December 15 - a dark comedy based on the Dickens's character, Ebenezer Scrooge. Tickets are €30 and include a three-course Indian meal and wine in the Raj Restaurant. To book: tel. 282320260.

## 'The Church of São Roque in Lisbon'

An illustrated talk by Dr. Ron B. Thomson on Tuesday, 14 December at 6.30pm at the Convento São José, Lagoa - Entrance €2 and on Friday, 17 December at 11 am, in the Municipal Library, Tavira - Entrance Free.

The Church of São Roque in Lisbon was the earliest Jesuit church in the Portuguese world, and one of the first Jesuit churches anywhere. It was one of the few buildings to survive the 1755 earthquake relatively unscathed. Patronised by both the kings of Portugal and Spain-Portugal, it displays a wide range of rich artistic styles, from the neo-classical to the baroque-rococo. Its Chapel of St. John the Baptist, when built in the 1740s, was reckoned to be the most expensive chapel in all of Christendom.

Ron B. Thomson earned his masters in the history of science at the University of Toronto, and his doctorate in history at Oxford in 1975. He was a Fellow at the Pontifical Institute of Mediaeval Studies in Toronto from 1980

until his retirement in 2008; he is now Fellow Emeritus. Dr Thomson's normal field of study is the history of mathematical astronomy, specifically the mathematics of astrolabes. Besides this recondite topic, he has also developed an interest in Portuguese history and has spent some years on his study of the Church of São Roque. His other major interest is the War of the Two Brothers and the introduction of liberalism into nineteenth-century Portugal. In the not too distant future, we shall see his book on this subject.

The Algarve History Association meets monthly, in Lagoa and in Tavira, for talks on the history of the Algarve and on the history of Portugal and its peoples. Talks are in English and all interested persons are welcome. For more information contact: lynne.booker@iol.pt.

Pictured below: The Interior of The Church of São Roque in Lisbon.



## Ukrainian artist opens new gallery in Beja

An enterprising Ukrainian artist has put his talent and qualifications to good use by opening an art gallery, featuring his own oil paintings and hand carved wooden artefacts.

Having studied painting, wood carving and restoration at college in the city of Chernivtsi, in south western Ukraine, 38 year-old Mykola Berla (pronounced Nikola) moved to Portugal in 2000.

"In the Ukraine I worked as an art and wood carving teacher, but like the thousands of others from my country, I moved here for economic reasons and found work on building sites and on farms," he told **The Portugal News**.

After almost 10 years in Portugal, Mykola, who has never stopped painting and wood work decided to open his own gallery last month in the centre of Beja.

"Exhibiting work in local galleries is difficult as they are often booked up to two years in advance, so I decided to open my own where people can come and watch me work and talk to me about my pieces" he said.

His cozy gallery, located in the heart of the city, features a number of oil paintings on canvas featuring scenes of the sea, and mythical characters.

"My oil paintings are done in a style close to realism, they are all from my imagination, and I give a name to each one, which is translated into English, German and French as well as Portuguese" he said.

There are also traditional Ukrainian hand carved wooden artefacts such as jewellery and trinket boxes, pipes and plates, carved from woods such as cherry, pear and oak, among others and inlaid with beads or metal.

According to Mr. Berla "the wooden pieces are very time consuming and labour intensive to make. One jewellery box alone can take four days, working from morning until night."

He can also make hand carved



Mykola and examples of his work.



and inlaid frames for his paintings or for any painting a client wishes.

Despite continuing with a full time job, Mykola opens his gallery to the public and works on his art almost every evening and weekends.

"I opened this gallery not only because I love to produce art and wood carvings but also to show people a little of the rich culture and heritage from my country," he said.

The Cantinho de Arte gallery is located at n°24 Rua Dr. Afonso Costa, near to Praça da República in the centre of Beja. For more information, please telephone Mykola on 934 145 998.

More Community News stories can be found on page 30.

## A Night in Bethlehem - a 'hands on' experience

Saturday, 11 December from 10.30am to 4.30pm at São Lourenço International School in Almancil this promises to be a Christmas celebration to remember as All Saints Anglican Church invites everyone to step back in time to the night that Jesus was born.

The aim is to transport people back to ancient Bethlehem by re-creating the sights, sounds, tastes and smells of the period. As soon as they arrive, guests will be invited to don biblical costumes and mingle with Roman soldiers, shepherds, shopkeepers and beggars in the hectic Bethlehem marketplace while they wait in line for their turn to register for the Roman Census.

Throughout the day, the children will experience what everyday life was like when Jesus was born. They can visit the shops of the marketplace and be part of a whole host of activities ranging from making a traditional Dreidel, designing their own Roman jew-

ellery and leather wristbands, trying their hand at making a Roman mosaic tile and making a keepsake for the day - a Star of Bethlehem for their own Christmas tree. Even the lunch and snacks are carefully themed to continue with the authentic experience. Then towards the end of the day, the shepherds will invite visitors to the special living Nativity to meet Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus and hear about their miraculous journey from Nazareth and the birth of their son.

All Saints Anglican Church will provide the costumes, all crafts, lunch, snacks and loads of fun - and the wonder of Christmas. Space is limited so call now to reserve your place - entrance is €10 per person. Contact: 916196077 or email: tjblackman8100@gmail.com.

All Saints Anglican Church Algarve is a member of the World-wide Anglican Communion. For more details and service times visit: [www.allsaintsalgarve.org](http://www.allsaintsalgarve.org).



The Lagos Animal Protection Society Annual Charity Fair, Hotel Tivoli Lagos  
Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> & Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December from 10:00am - 16:00pm  
In aid of animals cared for by L.A.P.S. including abused and injured animals  
Donations of books, clothes and unwanted gifts gratefully accepted at our Almadena Shop.  
For more information, call Bridget Hicks on 282 687 334



UP AND COMING  
CONCERTS

## DECEMBER

**CORSAGE** 11 Dec Santiago Alqueimista, Lisbon.

**30 SECONDS TO MARS** 16 Dec Pavilhão Atlântico, Lisbon from 8pm. Tickets from €28.

**MGMT & AMITH WESTERNS** 18 Dec Campo Pequeno, Lisbon. Tickets from €30.

**AUREA** 18 Dec Coimbra Fnac.

**ANA MOURA** 25 Dec Lisbon Casino.

**JORGE PALMA** 25 Dec MusicBox in Lisbon.

**TONY CARREIRA** 31 Dec Portimão riverfront.

**XUTOS E PONTAPÉS** 31 Dec Terreiro do Paço Lisbon.

**RUI VELOSO** 31 Dec Lisbon Casino.

**JANUARY**

**THE LEGENDARY TIGERMAN** 22 January at Oporto Coliseum.

**DEOLINDA** 22 Jan at Oporto Coliseum. 29 Jan Coliseum dos Recreios, Lisbon. Tickets €15.

**THE YOUNG GODS** 30 Jan Santiago Alqueimista in Lisbon.

**FEBRUARY**

**RODRIGO LEÃO** 5 Feb at Coliseum dos Recreios, Lisbon.

**SKUNK ANANSIE** 7 Feb Coliseum, Oporto from 9pm. Tickets from €25. 8 Feb Coliseum

dos Recreios, Lisbon from 9pm. Tickets from €29.

**THE SCRIPT** 14 Feb Coliseum dos Recreios, Lisbon from 9pm. Tickets from €22.

**KATY PERRY** 20 Feb Campo Pequeno, Lisbon from 8pm. Tickets from €25.

**MARCH**

**GOGOL BORDELLO** 6 Mar Coliseum in Oporto. 7 Mar Campo Pequeno, Lisbon. Tickets from €23.

**MARIA GADÚ** 11 Mar at CCB in Lisbon. 12 Mar at Hard Club in Porto.

**KATIE MELUA** 13 Mar Campo Pequeno, Lisbon from 9pm. Tickets from €25.50. 14 Mar at Oporto Coliseum from 9pm. Tickets from €30.

**ROGER WATERS** 21 Mar & 22 Pavilhão Atlântico from 9pm. Tickets from €40.

**LEANDRO** 26 Mar at Coliseum dos Recreios in Lisbon from 10pm. Tickets from €15.

**APRIL**

**NAS & DAMIAN MARLEY** 14 Apr Pavilhão Atlântico from 8.30pm.

**JULY**

**BON JOVI** 31 Jul Parque da Bela Vista, Lisbon. Tickets from €55.



Most tickets are available at FNAC and Worten outlets across the country, ATM machines, Alrou agencies, El Corte Inglés, Casa Viola, Ticketline or at the event itself on the night.

Websites: [www.pavilhaoatlantico.pt/](http://www.pavilhaoatlantico.pt/) / [www.ticketline.pt/](http://www.ticketline.pt/) / [www.blueticket.pt/](http://www.blueticket.pt/) / Phone numbers: Ticketline 707 234 234 / 707 780 000

ALMANCEL INTERNATIONAL ROTARY CLUB  
and ZONDA invite you to our

## Christmas Market

Saturday the 4th of December

from 11 am until 5pm on EN125, 700m from the 4 Estradas in the direction of Vilamoura.

## Come and Taste:

- Hot home-made soup
- Grilled German sausages
- Variety of Cakes
- Steaks
- Coffee
- Wine, Beer and soft drinks
- Glühwein & Schnaps
- & more

## Come, see and buy:

- Books and Bric a Brac
- Clothes
- Flowers and Plants
- Jewelry
- Soaps
- Home-made Jams
- Variety of Teas
- Home-made sweets

Music and entertainment with  
Georgy - The Organ Grinder... and others  
Participate in a Bake a Cake Competition  
judged by 'O Melhor Bolo do Mundo'  
Bring your cake at 12pm

## Contact

Uschi on 916 357 718  
Selma 916 189 983

## NORTH

## CHILDREN

**Cinderella** until 12 December at Balletteatro in Oporto. Call 225 508 918.

**Abracadabra workshop** for children until 18 months old on Sunday, 5 December at Casa da Música in Oporto from 11.30am and another session at 3pm. Tickets €10.

## EXHIBITIONS

**Photographs** on a Journey by João Tuna at Teatro Nacional São João in Oporto until 18 December.

**Look Up! Natural Porto** art Show about Oporto architecture and design throughout the city of Oporto until 19 December. Visit [www.lookupporto.com](http://www.lookupporto.com) for more information.

**Natal Christmas** exhibition until 22 December at Palacete dos Viscondes de Balesmão.

**O Natal da Árvore** until 31 December at Árvore on Rua Azevedo de Albuquerque in Oporto. Visit [www.arvorecoop.pt](http://www.arvorecoop.pt).

**Christmas Bazaar** at Serralvez museum until 31 December.

**Bodies Revealed** at Congress Centre of Alfândega in Oporto until 31 December.

**Lomography Holidays 2010** until 1 January 2011 at the Lomography Embassy in Oporto. Visit [www.lomografiaportugal.com](http://www.lomografiaportugal.com)

**It's Not My Fault** sculptures at Berardo Modern and Contemporary art museum until 9 January 2011.

**James** on Saturday, 4 December at Pavilhão Rosa Mota in Oporto. Tickets between €25 to €30.

**7th of Beethoven** on Sunday, 5 December at Casa da Música in Oporto from 12pm.

**Ubeda Y Baeza** Spanish music festival on Sunday, 5 December at Casa da Música in Oporto from 6pm.

**OuTonalidades** until 18 December at Estarreja Cine-Teatro in Oporto. Call 234 811 300.

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## CENTRE

## CHILDREN

**Mão-Mão Show** show aimed at children from 6 months to 3 years from 13 to 22 December at Cascais cultural centre.

**Fashion Training** for children running until February at FRM Formação Aldeia do Juso in Cascais. Call 963 956 541 on visit [www.frm-formacao.com](http://www.frm-formacao.com)

## FAIRS

**Artesnatus 2010 Christmas fair** until 23 December at Praça D João I in Oporto. Entrance is free.

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from midnight at Teatro Tivoli.

**Arthouse Big Band** from 12.30am at São Jorge Cinema.

**Nuno Prata** from 9.30pm at Cabaret Maxime. I Blame Coco from 10.45pm at Bes Arte e Finança. Jono McCleery from 10.45pm at Hotel Tivoli. Fujiya & Miyagi from 2am at Vodafone Garage on Marques de Pombal.

**Márcia** from 9pm at Avenida metro station. Youthless at Vodafone Bus. Visit <http://www.superbock.pt/SuperMusic/superbockemstock/> for more information.

**Herbie Hancock** 7 Dec at Campo Pequeno, Lisbon from 9.30pm. Tickets from €22.

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**Herbie**



# SOUTH

## CINEMA

**Black Night Film Festival** until 5 December at Tavira cinetheatre. Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival is a unique event combining a feature film festival with the sub-festivals of animated films, student films and children/youth films. The festival aims to present audiences a comprehensive selection of world cinema in all its diversity with the emphasis on European films, providing a friendly atmosphere for interaction between the audience, Estonian filmmakers and their colleagues from abroad. Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival consists of the main programme, four sub-festivals, as well as film and co-production markets.

## CHARITY

**Country Riding Centre fundraiser and activity day** at the Country Riding Centre in Silves on 18 December. All proceeds and donations in aid of the Loulé-based 'Os Miúdos' orphanage. Call 917 976 992.

## CHILDREN

**Panda Goes to School musical** on Saturday, 11 December at Parchal Arade congress centre at 11am and another session from 3pm. Tickets: from €16 to €22.50. Call 282 413 147 or 282 410 440.



## DANCE

**Scottish Country Dancing** every Monday evening at the International School of the Algarve, Porches, from 7.30pm to 9.30pm. Call Mardie Cunningham on 282 356 029 or e-mail mardie@sapo.pt.

## EXHIBITIONS

**Golf Stream** at Vilamoura Estrada de Albufeira, Aldeia Hípica until 12 December. Free entrance.

**Mikki F Arab** influences at Café Inglês in Silves. Call 282 442 585.

**Habits and Customs of Monchique** at Parque da Mina in Monchique until 31 December. Call 282 911 622.

**NECI Art Exhibition** organised by Dra. Maria Eduarda Santos in the old

Câmara Municipal Building in Praça Gil Eanes, Lagos. Art by NECI artist Carlos Fraústo, supporting artists, Lilla Radocz, Amanda D'Eça, Bernardete Bispo, Azevêgas, Tina Gonçalves and David Haines until 31 December.

**Paintings, sculptures, ceramics and hand-crafted items for the home** created by 35 international artists. Current exhibition at Corte-Real gallery in Paderne, includes American artist Jeanine Leclair, Member of the Pennsylvania Academy of Art. Until 31 December. Open Thursday to Sunday 11am until 5pm. Call 918 980 199 or 912 737 762.

**100 Anos da 1ª Republica em Tavira** at the Music Academy of Tavira. Ongoing until 31 December. Call 281 320 500.

**Ten Monumental British Sculptures** Exhibition at Cerro da Vila Roman Archaeological Centre in Vilamoura until 31 December. Entrance: €5. Call 289 312 153.

**Letters and Colours, Ideas and Authors of the Republic** at Tavira library until 31 December.

**Estados D'Alma** by Eduardo Dias at São Brás de Alportel gallery until 31 December. Call 289 840 000.

**Amália meu Amor** paintings by 18 artists at the Galeria Santo António in Monchique until 9 February. Call 282 913 130 or 925 004 051.

**City and Rural Worlds** at Tavira museum and Palácio gallery until 16 June, 2011.

**Mykola Berla** exhibition of oil paintings and hand carved wooden objects at the 'O Cantinho de Arte' gallery at n°24 Rua Dr. Afonso Costa in central Beja. Alentejo. Open evenings and weekends. Call 934 145 998

## FAIRS

**Messines Gastronomy Week** on Sunday, 5 December with special deals on traditional to gourmet food in Messines. Call 282 339 136 or visit www.jf-messines.pt

**Quinta dos Vales Open Day** on Sunday, 5 December in Estombar. Live music, wine tasting, sculpture exhibitions, activities and more from 11am until 6pm. Visit www.quintadosvales.eu

**Winter Fair** from Friday, 10 December until Sunday, 12 December with wines and traditional Portuguese artesanato at Loulé industrial area. Call 289 400 600.

## JEWISH SOCIETY

**Chanukah Picnic Lunch** on Sunday, 5 Dec in Portimão from Ralf Pinto tel. 282416710 or fax 282416515. Ralf.Pinto@sapo.pt

## MUSIC

**UHF Acoustic** on Saturday, 4 December at Olhão Municipal auditorium from 9.30pm. Call 289 710 170.

**Allgarve Winter Jazz** on Saturday, 4 December with Cindy Blackman Quartet at Faro Auditorium on Gambelas Campus from 9.30pm. Tickets: €20.



**Live Music in Churches** from Saturday, 4 December until 18 December in Tavira. 4 December: Chapel of São Sebastião. 11 December: Carmo Church. 18 December: Chapel of Santa Ana. All concerts start from 6pm. Call 281 320 500.

**Nu Clear Trio** 80'Pop/Rock, Saturday 4 December at Café Inglês in Silves from 9pm. Call 282 442 585.

**Nanook Rhythm & Blues** on Sunday, 5 December from 3pm at Café Inglês in Silves. Call 282 442 585.

**Outonalidades (Autumn Tunes)** from Saturday, 4 December until 18 December at Tavira Casa do Povo de Santo Estêvão from 10pm.

**17th Portimão Choir Festival** on Saturday, 4 December with a conference on Mediterranean vocal music conference and Sunday, 5 December with live music from 'Os Camponeses de Pias' at TEMPO municipal theatre in Portimão from 4pm. Call 282 770 450.

**Amateur Fado Competition** on Sunday, 5 December at Alvor Community centre from 4.30pm. Final on 12 December at TEMPO municipal theatre in Portimão from 4pm. Call 282 470 700.

**Lagos Music Academy Recital** on Tuesday, 7 December at Lagos Cultural Centre from 7pm. Call 282 770 450.

**New Orleans Jazz Band** at Casa Inglesa restaurant in Portimão every Thursday. Every Saturday at Tivoli Hotel in Lagos from 8.30pm. Call 935 086 365 or visit www.algarvejazz.com.

## SPORT

**World Championship in Artistic Roller Skating** until 4 December at Portimão Arena.

**Portimão Rally championship** on Saturday, 5 December from 8:45pm featuring a Super Special Stage and Sunday, 5 December Pec Algarve International Kartodrome from 10am. At Senhora do Verde in Portimão.

**Lagos Half Marathon** on Sunday, 5 December from Lagos Prof Egas Moniz square at 10am.

**17th Spar European Cross-Country Championship** on 12 December at Albufeira Cross Country Course from 11am. Visit www.albufeira2010.com.

**Bowls Crown Green and Lawn Bowls** at Amendoeira. Crown Monday and Thursday. Lawn Tuesday and Friday. Start 10am. All welcome, non members pay €8. Call Peter Clarke 966 169 747 (Crown), Peter Moss 961 165 478 (Lawn).

## THEATRE

**Grand Night of Variety** on Saturday 5 December at Lagoa Auditorium in aid of the Lagoa fire department. Tickets: €12. Call 282 789 608.

**A Singular Man** on Saturday, 5 December at Faro Lethes theatre from 4pm. Tickets: €10. Call 289 888 110. On Thursday, 9 December and Friday, 10 December at TEMPO municipal theatre in Portimão from 9.30pm. Tickets: €10. Call 282 402 475 or 961 579 917.

## CARBOOT SALES

**Algoz** Saturday, 4 December at Largo Várzea square.

**Tavira** Saturday, 4 December at Avenida D Manuel, near the municipal market.

**Vila Nova de Cacela** Saturday, 4 December near campsite.

**Aljezur** Sunday, 5 December at 'Dos Vales' primary school.

**Albufeira** Sunday, 5 December at Olhos d'Água.

**Fuzeta** Sunday, 5 December at the campsite.

**Portimão** Sunday, 5 December at the fairground.

## MARKETS

**Loulé** every Saturday at Rua da Nossa Senhora Piedade near convent.

**São Brás de Alportel** every Saturday, at fairground.

**Padern** Saturday, 4 December.

**São Marcos da Serra** Saturday, 4 December near cemetery.

**Lagos** Saturday, 4 December near municipal stadium.

**Benefim (Loulé)** Saturday, 4 December.

**Almancil** Sunday, 5 December near C+S school.

**Vila Real Santo António** Sunday, 5 December at Marquês de Pombal square.

**Moncarapacho** Sunday, 5 December next to Rua das Olarias.

**Azinhal** Sunday, 5 December near village entrance.

**Portimão** Monday, 6 December at fairground.

**Barão de São Miguel (Vila do Bispo)** Monday, 6 December at Rua das Flores.

**Budens (Vila do Bispo)** on Tuesday, 7 December in village centre.

**Caligos** Tuesday, 7 December. Fonte Santa.

**Alcoutim** Thursday, 9 December.

**Monchique** Friday, 10 December at market square.

# ALGARVE CHRISTMAS PREVIEW

## FAIRS

**Carvoeiro Christmas Fair** at the Carvoeiro Tennis Club on Saturday, 5 December in Carvoeiro, from 1pm to 6pm

**ArteNata** until 5 December in Ferragudo square, featuring a variety of stalls. Call 914 570 364.

**Christmas City** until 23 December at near Forum shopping in Faro. The city features a huge world of Christmas for children to explore. Entrance is €1, which is donated to charity. Call 289 807 075.

**Albufeira Xmas fair** on Saturday, 4 December and Sunday, 5 December in Albufeira.

**São Brás Christmas fair** on Sunday, 5 December at the São Brás museum from 11am to 4pm.

**Xmas Bazaar** on 4 December at the Mercado da Ribeira, Tavira from 10am to 1pm. Stalls include books, clothes, jewellery, greetings cards, Bric-a-brac, cakes and chutneys. Donations of good quality clothing and bric-a-brac, call Cynthia on 281 324 795 or Pat on 281 323 493. Event organised by the Tavira Fund Raisers to help support the canil at São Francisco, Loulé.

**Vale Verde International School Christmas Fair** on Saturday, 11 December. Free admission. Santa's Grotto, bouncy castle, games, sports, raffle, prizes, food, mulled wine, dance performances and more. Located on EN 537 in Burgau from 2pm - 5pm. Contact Person: Blaine Harris at bharris@vvis.com or 282 697 205.

**Christmas Craft Fair** 11 December from 10.30am to 3pm at Silves cine-theatre. Call 282 330 242 for more information.

**Castelo de Sonhos Fair** on 12 December from 10.30 to 3 pm at the old cine theatre in Silves. Lots of stalls, including paintings, crackers cards, calendars and ideas for Christmas gifts. Knitwear and many other attractions. Also we have Tony from the As Aves smoke house where you can buy or order goodies for now or Christmas, and Wendy with cheeses chutneys and preserves. All profits will be donated to the Castelo de Sonhos. At the moment the Castelo are struggling to provide nappies (any size) to the many babies of families that are registered with the charity. Bring anything that you can with you to help the charity.

**Aljezur art and handicraft Christmas fair** from 10 December until 12 December at Aljezur fair pavilion open daily from 11am to 11pm.

**Vila Real de Santo António market** on 12 December at Cacela Velha from 10am to 5pm.

**Carvoeiro Christmas fair** 12 to 19 December open daily in Carvoeiro square by the beach from midday until 7pm. Live music everyday at 3pm from 13 December, stalls selling sweets, handicrafts, roast chestnuts and much more! Visitors are also encouraged to walk around the town and see the festive window displays set up by local shops and associations.

**Abandoned Animals Centre Christmas party** 17 December from 8pm to 1am at Ayamonte Tennis Club. Tickets: €10 including buffet. Call 281 952 808 or 959 083 615 (Spain).

**Christmas Fair** at the Mirage Restaurant in Praia da Luz on 18 December, from 11am to 5pm, in aid of the NECI School Holiday Inn Christmas Programme from 23 until 27 December at the Holiday Inn in Armação de Pêra.

**Our Christmas Fair** on 19 December at Tavira, Ribeira market from 11am to 6pm.

**Valverde Christmas Dinner** on 25 December and New Years Dinner Dance on 31 December. See advert on page 19, call 282 789 474 or 962 541 124.

**MUSIC**

**ANA Airport Christmas Concert** on Tuesday, 7 December from 9.30pm at Faro Teatro das Figuras from 9.30pm. Entrance is free, but subject to availability. Call 289 888 110.

**THEATRE**

**The Angels Christmas Cracker Show** songs, comedy, drama and festive fun on Saturday, 4 December at Holiday Inn, Armação de Pêra. Tickets: €29 including seasonal buffet and drinks 282 320 260 or 966 086 181. Visit www.hialgarve.com or www.theangels-theatregroup.com.

**Bag Humbu!** by the Aperitivo Theatre Group on 10 and 11 December: São Brás museum (call 966 329 073). 15 December: at Holiday Inn in Armação de Pêra (dinner theatre call 282 320 260)





*The opinions expressed here are those of our readers and not necessarily of The Portugal News. The editor reserves the right to edit letters or refuse publication. Send your letters, which must include your name and full postal address (even if you wish to remain anonymous on the page), and should be under 300 words, to The Portugal News, Apartado 13, 8401-901 Lagoa. E-mail address: letters@theportugalnews.com*

### Dog found with microchip

SIR, Last Sunday we found a dog that got stuck in a garden fence, not being able to free himself, right across the parking of Intermarché in Carvoeiro. We stopped the car and helped the dog to get free. It turned out to be a young setter-type female dog that was totally exhausted. She was literally only skin and bones, probably weighting less than half what would be normal for a dog of that size. We couldn't tether her on the street, and since we couldn't keep her ourselves, we decided that we would bring her to the sanctuary in Estômar the next day.

Next morning we brought her to Estômar, and the person there checked if she was micro-chipped, which turned out to be the case. But that was it... they were not able to check any database, and asked us to go to municipal town hall to find out if the dog was registered there. We decided to go to our own vet, where our own dogs were micro-chipped, hoping that they could find the owner. But again, although they certainly were friendly and willing, they had no possibility to find the owner of this dog. They also referred us to the municipality. We tried that, but the dog was not registered there. So it was a dead end for the dog and we brought him back to the sanctuary in Estômar where she now is waiting for her owner to find her. Her micro-chip reads FDX-B 985121013136650, she has a red collar and her fur is dark and light brown.

This outcome is very sad for the dog and probably also for his owner, and it makes us wonder... what's the use of asking dog owners to micro-chip their animal and fill out a registration form, if the result of all this is that the dog can't be traced back to the owner. This is not what we were promised, and not what we paid for. I tried to find the owner through the internet, but I get the impression that there are lots of competing registration systems that are in no way interlinked. The companies that sell the micro-chips and the vets that use them seem to be the only beneficiaries of micro-chipping. Or am I missing something?

YVONNE WIJLMAN,  
Carvoeiro

### Re. NATO Summit

SIR, So, "the eyes of the world are upon Lisbon" for the most important meeting of NATO (The Portugal News, 20th Nov). I've just come back from a couple of weeks charging around Europe, but I didn't find much mention of the meeting in the local media. I suspect most people have grown tired of the pointless pomp and circumstance of these monkeys. Anyway, Ireland's woes topped the charts instead.

I am surprised to learn that NATO is "the most successful alliance in history". Gosh. Most of us thought it was a phenomenally expensive and pointless

organisation. NATO almost created the cold war single handed. That ruined the lives of two generations of war survivors in a pointless, extortionately expensive war game, until, over 25 years ago, the Russians got bored and walked away. The current top cat at NATO seems only just to have noticed.

How about Bosnia? Ask the dead and grieving whether that was much of a success. How about Afghanistan and Iraq? Staggeringly expensive, illegal, and utterly stupid. And can anyone tell me the good news about those wars? Increased hatred round the world, increased terrorism, and a complete failure of diplomacy, and the destabilisation of a large part of the world. And that is supposed to be a great success? Someone's been smoking something very weird.

What did they decide over the weekend? I don't know, the result was marginalised in the countries where I was. I guess top of the list was: How can we excuse our existence now Russia's gone and taken the ball away. Second was probably: How can we try to rule the world on an IOU?

I know we're living in a dream world where language is thoroughly bastardised, but I would like to remind the writers at The Portugal News that we are supposed to live in what is laughingly called a representative democracy. Please in future will you at least nominally uphold that belief by describing politicians as "our representatives" not as "our leaders". We are not supposed to live under a fascist regime, though you obviously think we do. Who knows, perhaps you're right after all.

JOHN CLARE, Arão

### Palm plight

SIR, The attractive photograph and brief text of your 27 November "...Cascais palms at risk" article hide several unattractive truths.

Although the Red Palm Weevil was officially recognised in the Algarve over three years ago, the Ministry of Agriculture imposed no quarantine on the region so it remains perfectly legal to transport a truckload of potentially infested, (not "infected") trees from this province's numerous nurseries to any part of Portugal.

Such incompetence pales, however, besides that of the European Commission which waited 14 years before prohibiting imports of Egyptian ornamental date palms, the source of the Community's original weevils.

The national media have been equally relaxed. Repeated messages and calls years ago to the serious press were consistently ignored. Under such circumstances it isn't just Cascais palms at risk but the whole country's.

ANTHONY LAMBE, By email

**See pg. 50 for this week's Lesson**

## St. Andrew's Ball most successful yet



The Saint Andrew's Society of the Algarve had its most successful Saint Andrew's Ball for many years at Le Meridien Hotel Penina on Saturday, 27 November. Almost 130 participants were warmly entertained – for the 10th year running – by the music of the Scottish Group "The Sounds of Islay" and the magical piping of Malcolm MacGillivray. The hotel kitchen produced a superb buffet and the friendly and attentive staff ensured that everything ran smoothly.

Chiefdom Doug McAdam welcomed guests and gave a brief history of Saint Andrew's origins and how he became Patron Saint of Scotland. He was delighted to

be able to welcome British Consul Clive Jewell and give him the opportunity to introduce himself to those assembled. After the meal most danced the night away saving just enough energy for a lusty 'Auld Land Syne'.

The Society hopes that the Ball will have whetted appetites for their next event – the Burns' Supper at the Restaurante Ponte Romana in Silves on Saturday 22 January 2011: put it in your diaries now and watch this space for further details later.

And if you want to retain or improve your Scottish dancing skills don't forget the dancing every Monday evening at 19:30 at the International School in Porches.

## Bought your tickets for the 'Grand Night of Variety?'

Don't miss the spectacular show all lined up for you in support of the emergency services of Lagoa 'Os Bombeiros Voluntários.' Many different artists will be performing in an exciting evening of entertainment. Classical music in the shape of piano, violin and voice will fit between Fado, Jazz, Ballet,

Tango and Comedy.

Relax in the comfortable luxury of the air-conditioned Auditorium of Lagoa on Sunday 5 December, curtain up at 8pm. Enter into the Christmas spirit and have a thoroughly good night out whilst supporting such a good cause. Tickets are only €12 and you can book now on 282789608.

### Christmas Bazaar

Saturday, 11th December, from 17.00 to 21.00pm  
at the German School of the Algarve in Silves  
Get in the Christmas mood:  
handicrafts, homebaked goodies, international buffet  
funny Christmas stories, games and music  
try your luck in our raffle.

You are warmly welcome to join us!  
DSA - Escola Alema do Algarve,  
Sítio do Lobito, 8300-054 Silves  
Tel. 282 419 104



## Christmas Fayre benefits Madrugada by €560

The Christmas Fayre at Galeria Corte-Real, Paderne, which included a range of stalls selling gifts and festive cuisine, has raised €560 for the Algarve

charity Madrugada. The gallery, which specialises in paintings, ceramics and decorative items for the home, also sells organic food-stuffs and toiletries, books and art cards, and is open until and including 24 December. Thursday to Sunday, 11am until 5pm.

### Christmas Services

United Carol Service  
with refreshments  
Sunday, 5 Dec. 6-8pm Vale  
Judeu Evangelical Church  
- o -  
International Christian  
Fellowship, Rua N.S.  
Amparo in Cedipraia  
Shopping Centre, no 23,  
Portimão  
Christmas Carol Service  
12 Dec. 11am  
Christmas Day Service  
25 Dec. 11am  
Boxing Day Service  
26 Dec. 11am

## Oh come all ye faithful!

The 'faithful' in this case being the growing number of people who come to performances by the Aperitivo Theatre Group knowing that they will get an evening's entertainment always a bit different from the norm.

In 'Bah Humbug!', they can join in the songs. The ubiquitous carol singers, who open the play and pop up at frequent intervals, invite the audience to sing along – song sheets are provided. Although basically written in English, 'Bah Humbug!' – a spoof on the classic Dickens tale of miserly Ebenezer Scrooge in A Christmas Carol – includes elements of Portuguese, Dutch, German and Spanish, plus a quick one line in Ukrainian.

As well as performing on 10 and 11 December at the Museum in São Brás, 'Bah Humbug!' will be shown at a dinner theatre presentation at the Holiday Inn Al-

garve at Armação de Pera on 15 December, and at the AL-MaSRah theatre in Tavira on 17 December.

The AL-MaSRah theatre is a new venue for Aperitivo. Perfectly located in the centre of Tavira, just across from the Cine-Teatro and the Banco Espírito Santo, it is the quintessential 'Fringe' theatre – small, basic, but with a great atmosphere and a good view (tiered, bench seating – bring a cushion!). It is surrounded by cafés and restaurants, which makes up for the lack of facilities at the theatre itself, and it is also cheap, as Fringe should be – only €5 a ticket.

For more information phone 966 329 073 or email: aperitivoperformancegroup@gmail.com, admin@amigos-museu-sbras.org or visit our website: www.amigos-museu-sbras.org.



Carol singers Mario Tartaglia, Selina Tartaglia and Dinah Littlewood

**Community News stories continued from page 27.**

## The Angels go crackers!

The Angels are going crackers, getting excited about their Christmas Show at the Holiday Inn Algarve (formerly Hotel Garbe) for one night only on Saturday, 4 December.

To kick start the Festive Season in traditional style, the fun night commences at 7:00pm, with The São Brás Salvation Army Band and the chance to win a prize from the Angel Tombola Tree.

Then there is a full Christmas Buffet, with wine, in the main restaurant. Curtain-up is at 8:30pm will include all manner of Christmas activities, comedy sketches, readings and poems and much more.

Tickets are on sale for €29, at either Holiday Inn Algarve, Armação de Pera on 282320260 or Joro Shop in Almacil on 289390830 (ext. 4), the price includes the show, the buffet with wine and a sing-a-long carol sheet. If you come dressed in a Christmas hat, Santa, reindeer, elf, etc, you will receive a free ticket to a special raffle.

Christmas Cracker Show supports Centre Algarve - a project to create a holiday centre for people with Special Needs. Contacts: www.theangelstheatreco.com, email: theangelstheatreco@live.com or phone: 966 086 181. See also: www.hialgarve.com and www.centrealgarve.org.



From left: Father Christmas or Ralph Keenan, Joy Behennah, Sylvie Wilkes, Rosemary Jackson.



## ALGARVE

**SBC**  
**FORUM ALGARVE**  
**TEL: 289 887 212**  
**2 DEC-8 DEC**



- 1**  
**The American**  
 George Clooney, Thelma Reuten  
 13.55-16.20-18.45-21.00 (23.30 Fri & Sat)
- Toy Story 3**  
 Animation PV  
 (10.10 Sat & Sun)
- 2**  
**Despicable Me - Animation PV**  
 (10.50 Sat & Sun)
- Fair Game**  
 Naomi Watts, Sean Penn  
 14.00-16.25-18.50-21.20 (23.50 Fri & Sat)
- 3**  
**Harry Potter 7: Part 1**  
 Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson  
 (12.55 Sat & Sun) 16.05-19.10
- Saw 3D**  
 Tobin Bell, Costas Mandylor  
 22.15 (00.20 Fri & Sat)
- 4**  
**Harry Potter 7: Part 1**  
 Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson  
 (10.40 Sat & Sun) 15.00-18.05-21.10 (00.15 Fri & Sat)
- 5**  
**Megamind**  
 Animation PV  
 (10.30-12.45 Sat & Sun) 14.55-17.05-19.20-21.30 (23.40 Fri & Sat)
- 6**  
**Unstoppable**  
 Denzel Washington, Chris Pine  
 (12.35 Sat & Sun) 14.50-17.15-19.35-21.50 (00.10 Fri & Sat)
- 7**  
**Due Date**  
 Robert Downey Jr, Zach Galifianakis  
 13.00-15.10-17.20-19.30-21.40 (23.55 Fri & Sat)
- 8**  
**Celda 211**  
 Luis Tosar, Alberto Ammann  
 14.25-19.25-22.00 (00.30 Fri & Sat)
- Despicable Me**  
 Animation PV  
 (12.15 Sat & Sun) 16.55
- Marmaduke PV**  
 Owen Wilson, Lee Pace  
 (10.00 Sat & Sun)
- 9**  
**22 Bullets**  
 Jean Reno, Kad Merad  
 14.05-16.40-21.45 (00.25 Fri & Sat)
- Cats & Dogs 2 - PV**  
 Chris O'Donnell, Bette Midler  
 (10.20 Sat & Sun)
- Life As We Know It**  
 Josh Duhamel, Katherine Heigl  
 19.15

**CASTELLO LOPES CINEMAS**  
**ALGARVES SHOPPING**  
**TEL: 707 220 220**  
**2 DEC-8 DEC**



- 1**  
**The American**  
 George Clooney, Thelma Reuten  
 13.10-16.05-18.30-21.15 (23.40 Fri & Sat)

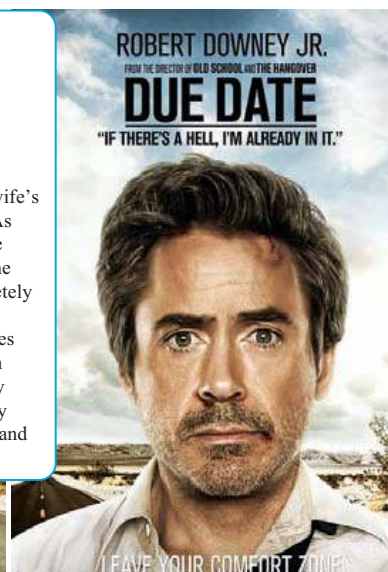
- 2**  
**Megamind 3D**  
 Animation PV  
 12.55-15.05-17.20-19.30
- Megamind 3D**  
 Animation OV  
 21.45 (00.15 Fri & Sat)
- 3**  
**Celda 211**  
 Luis Tosar, Alberto Ammann  
 13.20-15.55-18.20-21.20 (23.45 Fri & Sat)
- 4**  
**Harry Potter 7: Part 1**  
 Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson  
 15.10-18.10-21.10 (00.10 Fri & Sat)
- 5**  
**Red**  
 Bruce Willis, Morgan Freeman  
 13.15-15.45-18.15-21.00 (23.30 Fri & Sat)
- 6**  
**Harry Potter 7: Part 1**  
 Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson  
 13.00-15.50-18.50-21.40
- 7**  
**Fair Game**  
 Naomi Watts, Sean Penn  
 13.30-16.10-18.40-21.25 (23.50 Fri & Sat)
- 8**  
**Due Date**  
 Robert Downey Jr, Zach Galifianakis  
 13.40-16.00-18.25-21.30 (00.00 Fri & Sat)
- 9**  
**Unstoppable**  
 Denzel Washington, Chris Pine  
 12.50-15.00-17.10-19.20-21.35 (23.55 Fri & Sat)

**CASTELLO LOPES CINEMAS**  
**PORTIMÃO**  
**TEL: 707 220 220**  
**2 DEC-8 DEC**

- 1**  
**Jackass 3D**  
 Johnny Knoxville, Bam Margera  
 13.10-15.20-17.30-19.40
- Saw 3D**  
 Tobin Bell, Costas Mandylor  
 21.50 (00.00 Fri & Sat)
- 2**  
**Harry Potter 7: Part 1**  
 Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson  
 12.40-15.30-18.30-21.30 (00.20 Fri & Sat)
- 3**  
**Unstoppable**  
 Denzel Washington, Chris Pine  
 13.00-15.10-17.20-19.30-22.00 (00.15 Fri & Sat)
- 4**  
**The American**  
 George Clooney, Thelma Reuten  
 13.20-15.50-18.20-21.30 (23.50 Fri & Sat)
- 5**  
**Due Date**  
 Robert Downey Jr, Zach Galifianakis  
 13.30-16.00-19.00-21.40 (00.10 Fri & Sat)
- 6**  
**Megamind 3D**  
 Animation PV  
 12.50-15.00-17.10-19.20-21.30 (23.40 Fri & Sat)



**Title:** Due Date  
**Genre:** Comedy  
**Stars:** Robert Downey Jr, Zach Galifianakis, Michelle Monaghan, Juliette Lewis, Jamie Foxx  
**Director:** Todd Phillips  
**Synopsis:** Peter Highman is an expectant first-time father whose wife's due date is a mere five days away. As Peter hurries to catch a flight home from Atlanta to be at her side for the birth, his best intentions go completely awry when a chance encounter with aspiring actor Ethan Tremblay forces Peter to hitch a ride with Ethan - on what turns out to be a cross-country road trip that will ultimately destroy several cars, numerous friendships and Peter's last nerve.



**Title:** Megamind  
**Genre:** Animation | Action | Comedy  
**Voice Talents:** Will Ferrell, Brad Pitt, Tina Fey, Jonah Hill, David Cross, Justin Theroux, Ben Stiller  
**Director:** Tom McGrath  
**Synopsis:** Megamind is the most brilliant super-villain the world has ever known... and the least successful. Over the years, he has tried to conquer Metro City in every imaginable way. Each attempt, a colossal failure thanks to the caped superhero known as "Metro Man", until the day Megamind actually defeats him. Suddenly, the fate of Metro City is threatened when a new villain arrives and chaos runs rampant, leaving everyone to wonder: Can the world's biggest "mind" actually be the one to save the day?



**Title:** Fair Game  
**Genre:** Action | Biography | Drama  
**Stars:** Naomi Watts, Sean Penn, Noah Emmerich, Ty Burrell, Sam Shepard, Bruce McGill  
**Director:** Doug Liman  
**Synopsis:** Based on the autobiography of real-life undercover CIA operative Valerie Plame, whose career was destroyed and marriage strained to its limits when her covert identity was exposed by a politically motivated press leak.



**Castello Lopes Cinemas**  
**TEL: 707 220 220**  
**www.castellolopescinemas.com**



**UCI Cinemas**  
**TEL: 707 23 22 21**  
**www.uciportugal.pt**



**Zon Lusomundo Cinemas**  
**TEL: 707 24 63 62**  
**www.zonlusomundo.pt**

**OV = Original Version**  
**PV = Portuguese Version**

## Film Classification

Due Date - M/12  
 Megamind - M/6  
 Fair Game - M/12  
 Unstoppable - M/12  
 The American - M/12  
 Machete - M/16  
 Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1 - M/12  
 Saw 3D - M/18  
 The Kids Are All Right - M/12  
 Red - M/12  
 The Social Network - M/12  
 Despicable Me - M/6

M/4 - Four years and over  
 M/6 - Six years and over  
 M/12 - 12 years and over  
 M/16 - 16 years and over  
 M/18 - 18 years and over







**SUDOKU**

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column, and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 through 9. Answers next week.

Easy

Medium

Hard

		7	2		4	3		
9	4						2	6
	6		7		9		4	
5				1				2
			5		7			
6				4				9
	9		8		3		1	
3	5						8	7
		2	9		1	5		

	6			9	8			
1		9		6		4		
3	2					1		
6		2			9			
5								1
				8		7		6
		7					1	3
6			2		8		4	
			6	3			9	

	8			3				2
		7	4		9	8		
		2				9		
	9		7		6		4	
	1		2		8		5	
		1					4	
		8	9		7	1		
3			5					8

**CODEWORD**

Each number in the grid represents a different letter of the alphabet. Decipher the code to fill in the crossword. Three letters are already in place and the check-box and letters either side will help you keep track of progress.

S	I	M	P	E	R		P	H	Y	S	I	Q	U	E
I	L	O					Q	P	U	I				
T	R	O	U	S	S	E	A	U	A	I	I			
E	N	E												
S	W	I	G				B	O	A		H			
H	E						U							
S	H	E					W	A	K	E				
C	O	M	R	A	D									
G	A	R					S	K	I					
N	O	I	S				P	R	I	Z	Z	L	E	
S	M						S	O	V	A				
T							E							
R	E	S	E	R	V	E								
I	A						L	A	W					
C	R	C					U							
T	H	I	C	K	E	E	S	T						

(Right: Last week's solution)

Last weeks solutions:

2	4	7	1	5	6	8	3	9	6	4	5	8	1	7	3	9	2	3	2	5	4	8	9	7	6	1
6	9	1	3	8	4	2	5	7	1	3	9	4	5	2	8	6	7	6	9	4	2	1	7	5	3	8
3	8	5	9	2	7	4	1	6	2	8	7	3	6	9	4	1	5	1	7	8	6	5	3	2	4	9
5	1	8	6	9	3	7	2	4	9	7	2	5	4	8	1	3	6	8	4	7	9	3	6	1	2	5
7	6	4	2	1	8	3	9	5	4	1	6	7	9	3	2	5	8	5	3	2	8	7	1	4	9	6
9	2	3	7	4	5	6	8	1	8	5	3	6	2	1	7	4	9	9	1	6	5	2	4	8	7	3
4	7	9	8	3	1	5	6	2	7	2	1	9	3	6	5	8	4	2	8	9	7	6	5	3	1	4
1	3	6	5	7	2	9	4	8	3	9	4	2	8	5	6	7	1	7	6	3	1	4	8	9	5	2
8	5	2	4	6	9	1	7	3	5	6	8	1	7	4	9	2	3	4	5	1	3	9	2	6	8	7

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26

A	19	6	22	7	19	4	2	12	7		23	5	4	22	15	N
B	9		4		9		13		20		25		15		13	O
C	13	6	18	23	7		4	12	11	7	2	13	4		25	P
D	25		6		23		1		24		13		5		11	Q
E	2	7	14	13	8	7	18	20		15	6	11	7	25	18	R
F		7			23				16		7				25	S
G	8	7	23	19		26	25	12	3	15	19	3	25	3	23	T
H	7		19		18		4	11		24		26		6		U
I	4	15	25	5	4	12	24	15	23	7		15	7	19	23	V
J	12				3		10				5		13			W
K	25	20	20	6	19	24		23	21	3	4	18	20	7	13	X
L	3		13		6		15		3		15		13		6	Y
M	23		4	13	5	9	6	26	7		19	24	6	18	11	Z
	12		18		4		15		3		25		26		6	
	24	25	17	7	12		23	15	7	4	13	9	7	4	20	

**PRIZE CROSSWORD 1090**

1		2		3	4		5		6		7	
8												
				9								
10												
14												
18				19								
25												
27												

A €10 Algarve Book Cellar token will be awarded to the sender of the first correct solution opened next Thursday. Solutions to: The Portugal News Crossword N° 1090, Apt. 13, 8401-901 Lagoa, or by fax to: 707941201, or scan and e-mail to: Sherry@theportugalnews.com. (Be sure to enclose your name, address and phone number.)

**ACROSS**

3. Trite (5-4)
8. Work (4)
9. Complaint (9)
10. Excellent (6)
11. Caper (5)
14. Mill (5)
15. Money (4)
16. Keen (5)
18. Responsibility (4)
20. Ward off (5)
21. Platform (5)
24. Cope (6)
25. Course (9)
26. Counterfeit (4)
27. Employee (9)

**DOWN**

1. Infection (9)
2. Pushy (9)
4. Distort (4)
5. Pure (5)
6. Disastrous (6)
7. Need (4)
9. Merchandise (5)
11. Lessen (5)
12. Photographer (9)
13. Smashed (9)
17. Heathen (5)
19. Tension (6)
22. Mount (3,2)
23. Heap (4)
24. Additional (4)

**WORDSEARCH**

Find the hidden words within the square. The word may start anywhere and go in any direction.

F	E	A	W	L	A	T	E	M	E	N	S	U	R	E
Q	T	A	L	E	S	J	V	E	Y	L	A	G	J	H
S	M	E	D	I	A	F	V	T	E	S	O	R	A	M
E	O	X	P	F	E	I	I	V	D	X	L	Z	U	A
N	F	B	Q	E	L	C	H	L	N	E	I	V	P	I
A	A	S	T	S	A	R	A	W	V	V	A	L	T	Z
R	M	T	T	D	U	B	O	I	I	R	C	E	E	E
C	W	E	N	U	B	D	T	P	I	X	L	A	T	Z
J	G	E	N	M	O	C	E	E	J	G	A	S	S	V
E	M	T	D	T	E	L	T	U	H	P	S	E	Q	I
T	E	M	F	J	A	I	F	S	C	D	S	F	U	S
A	M	R	B	R	E	L	X	G	J	E	L	B	A	O
C	A	O	F	S	T	F	I	R	H	T	E	S	R	R
K	H	K	K	N	K	S	W	T	E	A	S	S	E	E
D	S	K	E	D	A	J	V	F	Y	C	S	X	F	D

MENDACITY, BALD, ENSURE, MEDIA, TALES, EXILE, VISOR, SHAME, FLOUTS, VARIETIES, FREE, MENTALITY, DOWN, OBJECTIVE, CLASSLESS, EASE, DEUCE, CRANES, TACK, AROSE, MAIZE, SQUARE, EVILS, THRIFT, METAL, JADE, FEET

**SPOT THE DIFFERENCE**

See if you can find 6 differences between the two photos.

**Last week's solutions**

- Across: 1 Ruby; 3 Attitude; 8 Sign; 9 Frumpish; 11 Overpowering; 13 Sordid; 14 Clever; 17 Ostentatious; 20 Weaponry; 21 Pair; 22 Domineer; 23 Dene.
- Down: 1 Response; 2 Bugbear; 4 Thrown; 5 Immorality; 6 Union; 7 Echo; 10 Upside down; 12 Preserve; 15 Violate; 16 Starve; 18 Swarm; 19 Awed.

Last weeks winner: Mr Clive White, Messines



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# PROPERTY

A weekly guide to the latest and the best properties on the market in Portugal • The Portugal News • 04 Dec 2010

## PROPERTY OF THE WEEK

### Prestigious high quality villas overlooking golf academy at brilliant prices



This week, Property of the Week features the brand new, high-quality Aldeia do Campo Vilamoura development, which comprises of seven semi-detached and detached 3+1 bedroom villas overlooking a golf academy in a prestigious area.

The villas are built surrounding a central raised landscaped garden and communal car parking area, although each has its own off street parking and private garage.

The entrance to each property has an automatically irrigated front garden with a stone-faced wall and metal entrance gate. Inside the solid wood front door, there is a bright entrance hall with a colour video entry phone as well as controls for a high tech central 'domotic' system that allows a home owner to control shutters, lights, music and much more at the touch of a button.

On the ground floor, the properties feature an Italian kitchen in wenge wood, which is totally equipped with Siemens washing machines and dishwasher as well as fridge, microwave, vitroceramic plate, cooker and oven. The stylish open-plan lounge diner, which overlooks the garden and golf acad-

emy beyond features a suspended ceiling and a fireplace with a heat recovery ventilation system, to ensure maximum heat output into the room.

Other hidden technology also featured throughout these luxury villas, such as a central vacuum system, pre-installation for solar panels, top of the range double glazed windows that protect against summer heat and noise and Samsung MB series air conditioning units.

"The design of these properties was carefully thought out," said a spokesman from Aldeia do Campo, adding "They are made to be lived in, with clever features such as two water heating systems, one for the central heating system with a 300-litre deposit and the other for hot running water so taps will never run cold."

The ground floor also features a double en-suite bedroom, while

up the solid wood stairs, there are a further two double en-suite two bedrooms on the first floor, all of which have large fitted wardrobes. These also feature quick step 8mm floating beech wood coloured floors that are guaranteed to last for 25 years.

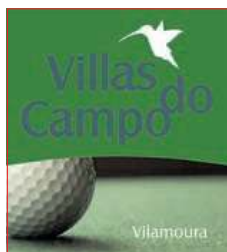
Meanwhile, steps from the entrance on the ground floor lead to an ample garage space below the house as well as a separate room with en-suite bathroom that has great potential to be used as a fourth bedroom, games room, gym or office.

Outside, each villa features its own private swimming pool with pre-installation for a heat pump, as well as a barbecue and covered patio area for 'al fresco' dining and landscaped gardens with automatic irrigation, which overlook the manicured lawns of the golf academy opposite.

With all of this, clients also have the option to have their home tastefully furnished by the professional interior designer who has decorated the show villas.

Buyers who invest in one of these top class properties can make full use of the luxury lifestyle as the company is setting up an "advantage card" for home owners to benefit from exclusive discounts on a range of products such as medical and dental care, golf, restaurant and leisure facilities.

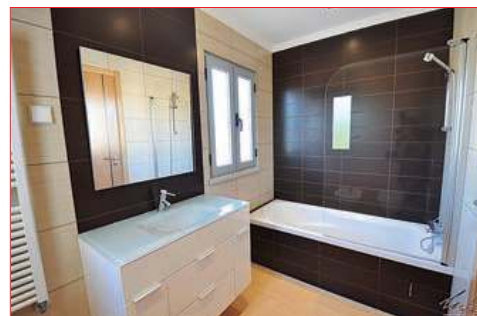
Prices for these luxurious properties start at €850,000, al-



though there is room for negotiation as well as a cost-effective part-exchange scheme.

"Due to the current economic climate, we have found that clients looking to upgrade their property are struggling to sell their old one and release its capital," said a spokesman from Aldeia do Campo, adding: "This is why we accept a part exchange of a client's current property against the value of these luxury villas."

For more information or to book a viewing, please telephone +351 915 657 595 or email [angulospaixao@sapo.pt](mailto:angulospaixao@sapo.pt).





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**Ref 1055 Vila Real de Stº Antonio - € 80.000**

Apartment with one bedroom in a brand new block very close to the centre of town, luxury finishes. All facilities and restaurants easy walking distance away.

**Ref 482 Altura - € 108.000**

One bedroom apartment approx 10 mins on foot to the beach. On top floor with lift and space in basement garage, the resort of Altura has many restaurants and cafes.

**Ref 1005 Vila Nova de Cacela - € 121.000**

Two bed, two bath, higher ground floor apartment with patio and BBQ. Space in basement garage and communal roof terrace, 1600m from the beach at Manta Rota and close to all local facilities.

**Ref 1053 Tavira - € 159.000**

Fully furnished and equipped beautiful 2 bed, apt with spectacular views of Tavira and the ocean. Private enormous roof terrace and space in basement garage. Good price as sold ready to rent out or live in.

**Ref 941 Conceição de Tavira - € 220.000**

Three bedroom very generous end of terrace house with various patios and verandas, private closed garage in the basement, shared pool, extremely close to Benamor Golf course and the facilities of the village.

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**Tavira: 281 320 281**  
**Vilamoura: 289 301 294**



**Tavira**

Magnificent 5 bed / 4 bath villa (289 m2) with pool on 7000 m2 plot with mature garden on spectacular location 2 km from Tavira. Unique opportunity to live in a rural setting so close to town.

Ref: LHV-1103 Price: € 750.000



**Tavira**

Recently built, good quality 4 bed / 4 bath villa (334 m2) with double garage (45 m2) and swimming pool located on two hectares of easy to maintain land enjoying far-reaching sea & country views.

Ref: LHV-1069 Price: € 650.000



**Sta. Catarina**

Brand new 3 bed / 3 bath villa (237 m2) with approved project for pool, built with high quality materials & modern specs incl. under floor heating & solar panels. Plot 7821 m2. Tarmac road access.

Ref: LHV-1056 Price: € 480.000



**Tavira**

Well maintained 4 bed / 2 bath villa (208 m2) with garage (24 m2) & lovely pool area enjoying open country views, located on plot of 600 m2 in small pinewood, 500m from Ria Formosa lagoon.

Ref: LHV-1113 Price: € 399.000



**Tavira**

Renovated 2 bed / 2 bath quinta (109 m2) enjoying wide views, located on plot of 752 m2 in small hamlet. 2 small outbuildings in use for storage/ workshop. Nicely landscaped garden.

Ref: LHV-1110 Price: € 265.000

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**Vilamoura**

Studio apartment transformed into 1 bedroom apartment, renovated, composed of 1 bathroom, equipped kitchenette (new), lounge w/ dining area & 2 terraces. Air cond. & sat. Tv. Exterior parking area. Communal sw. pool & garden. Constr. area approx. 46 sq.m. Ref: A1357 Price: € 80.000,00



**Vilamoura**

Attached villa comprising 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge with dining area and fireplace, equipped kitchen and storage. Terraces and roof terrace. Furnished and equipped. Communal swimming pool and garden area. Const. area - 105 sq.m. Ref: V12687 Price: € 195.000,00



**Vale Judeu**

Attractive country villa composed of 3 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, lounge with fireplace, dining room, kitchen and storage. Roof terrace and carport. Swimming pool and garden. Furnished & equipped. Plot area approx. 350 sq.m. Constr. area approx. 115 sq.m. Ref: V12649 Price: € 365.000,00



**Vilamoura**

Beautiful villa composed of 3 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, lounge with fireplace, dining room, kitchen, storage and terraces. Barbecue, carport, swimming pool and garden. Furnished and equipped. Plot area - 425 sq.m. Const. area - 128 sq.m. Ref: V12685 Price: € 425.000,00



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**Antonio Villas - Vilamoura**

3/4 Bedroom Semi-Detached villas overlooking the golf course in Vilamoura. These immaculate modern villas are of modern and contemporary design includes air-con, fireplace, radiator heating, modern fully fitted "Italian" designed kitchen with decked swimming pool overlooking golf with pre-installation for heating. \*\*The developer also offers part exchange to upgrade to these beautiful villas. Prices from: €750,000 / €635,000



**Quinta Madeira Villas - Almoncil**

Beautiful fully furnished 2 bedroom townhouse on a small complex of only 12 houses within walking distance of the various "Michelin" star restaurants including A Quinta and Henrique Leis. The beaches of Vale do Lobo and Quinta do Lago are only a 6 minute drive, along with their prestigious golf courses. This villa offers a fantastic holiday home or rental investment due to its quality and location. Price €275,000 / €233,000



**Marina Penthouse - Vilamoura**

Stunning 3 Bedroom Penthouse apartment overlooking Vilamoura Marina and having panoramic seaviews, this apartment is a footballers dream pad offering private Jacuzzi and plunge pool on it's own private terrace of over 168m2. This is the most exclusive apartment at the marina and early viewings are recommended! Price €1,495,000 / €1,266,000



**Casa Sol - Vilamoura**

3 Bedroom / 3 bathroom detached villa located opposite the Hilton Resort complex in Vilamoura and within a 3 minute walk of the Pinal golf course club house. The villa has spacious landscaped gardens and is located in a sought after location. With access to the marina easy via the tourist road train that stops outside this villa is also ideal for holiday rentals. Price €545,000 / €461,000



**Villa Phillip - Vilamoura**

4 Bedroom / 3 Bathroom detached villa located with 10 minutes walk of the marina. This lovely villa is set in a secluded cul-de-sac set among pine trees near the Pinal Golf Course. The villa offers full air-conditioning, central heating and a private swimming pool and secure garage parking. Price €898,000 / €761,000



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**MONTE SECO**  
T32039

Lovely plot located on a rural region of the central Algarve. Very peaceful residential area approx. 12 Km from Vilamoura. 800 sq.m. plot with project approved to build a detached villa with 230 sq.m of constructed area. Project is for a three bedroom villa with a 8x4 swimming pool. Great panoramic country views. Good access. P.O.A



**VILAMOURA MARINA**  
A102825

Excellent two bedroom apartment, located beside the Marina of Vilamoura and the beach. Complex with communal swimming pool. Finished to a high standard. 95 sq.m. of constructed area. Furnished and equipped. Air conditioning. Underground parking space for one car. Large terrace with lovely panoramic views. Great letting potential. Price: € 277.500.00



**VILAMOURA**  
A102866

2 bedroom apartment on exclusive complex w/ nice finishes, large green areas and communal sw. pool. Excellently located near several golf courses. 100 sq.m. of constructed area. Fully fitted kitchen with separated utility area. Air conditioning. Two parking spaces and one storage on the basement. South facing balcony with barbecue overlooking the pool area. Lovely panoramic views of Vilamoura. Price: € 230.000.00



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### Vale de Lama, Ref: S484 REDUCED by 18% €448,000!!!



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Family selecting a Christmas tree



Lodgepole pine tree.

Hannah Stephenson gives tips on selecting the best varieties of Christmas tree this festive season

## Picking the best Christmas tree

Householders are going to have to dig deep in their pockets if they want a Nordmann fir non-drop Christmas tree this year, according to industry experts.

While it is the most popular tree because of its deep green colour and reliability that it won't drop its needles, in the UK over the past five years prices of the Christmas tree have risen by up to 30% in some areas, according to the British Christmas Tree Growers Association.

But our beloved Nordmann is not the only tree which will last through the festive season. The Fraser fir (*Abies fraseri*), popular in the eastern United States, is narrower than other trees and therefore more suitable for smaller rooms.

If you want to save money, go for a home-grown Scots pine or Lodgepole pine, which are likely to cost less than the same size of



Nordmann fir tree

Nordmann fir. These trees don't drop their needles and are bushier than the Nordmann. Some have cones on them and they are wonderfully fragrant.

Before buying your tree, measure the space you are allocating it indoors, considering both height and spread to ensure a good fit. You can always trim it with a good pair of secateurs, but the less trimming you have to do the better the tree will keep its shape.

If budget is your main priority, shop around on the internet for the best prices. Alternatively, seek out reputable growers who are situated away from urban centres but as close as possible to your home. They are less likely to attract a big retail market and you may find a better tree and clinch a better deal.

When deciding on a tree, check that the needles are not dull and dried up and that the branches are not brittle. Remember to gently shake the tree to ensure the outer needles are not falling off.

If you can bear to, leave it 'til the last minute to buy a tree, especially if you choose something such as a Blue spruce (*Picea pungens* 'Glaucia'), which will drop its needles quicker than other types.

Saw off the bottom 5cm of trunk to open up its pores before you bring the tree inside, and place it in a bucket of water until you are ready to house it.

When you bring it in, make sure you can keep it topped up with water as a tree will drink half a litre a day. Most Christmas-tree stands have a space for water, or you could simply wedge it into a bucket.

Don't put the tree next to a radiator or fire because it will dry out and the needles are more likely to drop.

Some people opt for bare-rooted or root-balled trees if they want to keep the tree for future years. Bare-rooted trees should be planted as soon as possible in moist earth to stop their roots from drying out, while root-balled trees are wrapped in sackings and should be planted in containers.

There are pros and cons to each, but bear in mind that live trees with roots may not take kindly to being brought indoors into a warm, dry atmosphere. However, trees that have been cut off at ground level, sharpened to stick into a wooden base and then transported around the country need to be tough to survive and look good.

If you buy a bare-rooted tree, soak the roots in water before planting. Keep the compost in container-grown trees moist to prevent the needles from dropping.

Hopefully, your tree will still be looking as festive as ever as you see in the New Year.

### Mung bean

### Good enough to eat - Sprouting seeds

The veg patch may be starting to look bare, so grow some sprouting seeds indoors, which will require very little work and provide instant gratification. There's no mess with soil or compost - all you need is a jar and an airing cupboard to grow Chinese bean sprouts, also known as mung beans, which may not be as long as the ones you buy in supermarkets, but they'll be just as tasty. Soak a handful of seeds overnight, rinse them in water and put them in a large glass jar, covered with a circle of muslin or white cotton instead of a lid and then transfer it to a warm, dark place, rinsing the beans twice a day. After around four days, they'll be ready to eat.

Other sprouting seeds which are easy to grow include fenu-greek and Alfafa, but make sure you buy seeds sold only for sprouting, not vegetable seeds which are intended for growing.



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Wooden frame with laurel heart motif

## Santa's coming home



Home lovers will be disappointed if Santa doesn't bring them gorgeous gifts for rooms. Gabrielle Fagan rounds up a range of gorgeous homeware you'll feel happy to give or receive.

Santa Claus doesn't only bring sackfuls of toys - he can bring gifts for the home if they're on the list!

There's a host of desirable homeware that could give your rooms a lift - remember they'll be under the spotlight when family and friends visit - and the effect will last long after the decorations have been taken down.

Home gifts will be warmly welcomed by 'deco-istas' who get the same buzz out of gorgeous cushions and fabulous throws as fashionistas get out of their designer clobber.

But if you're giving, rather than splurging on your own nest, it's worth taking care over the choice of home gifts for others, says Joanna McGivern, founder of online company The Handpicked Collection.

"You really want to avoid a home gift that, as they receive it, gives someone a sinking feeling because it's not their taste and, worse, they realise they'll have no choice but to display it - at least when you're around!" she says.

"So always consider the style of another person's home. For instance, those living in a minimalist haven obviously won't want anything fussy, ornate or too kitsch."

"Extremely personal items like art are also best avoided unless you really know a person well and are confident it'll be appreciated."

A safer option, she advises, are beautiful versions of everyday items, such as a solid wood chopping board, a bone china platter, a crystal water jug or wine carafe.

"Those sorts of gifts are usually well received because they make day-to-day living and tasks feel less mundane," she points out.

We have a sackful of home gifts to match your home's personality (give Santa a nudge by leaving a list prominently displayed) and help you with your gift list.

### Deco-istas

These are dedicated home lovers whose passion is keeping rooms up to date to reflect the changing trends.

"Designer homewares are a brilliant way to add a touch of

chic style - and usually they don't have the hefty price tag associated with designer clothing," says Kate Mooney, managing director of Occa-Home.

"Look for gorgeous Mulberry leather photo frames and candles - these are snips compared with their handbags - or perhaps Missoni throws and towels."

### Traditionalists

Their homes are cosy sanctuaries which reflect the seasons and they generally play it safe when it comes to style.

"When buying gifts for someone else's home, don't let your taste get in the way," advises Clare Price, founder of The Contemporary Home.

"You may like bright things but if their home has a muted style, find something less colourful in a classic or Shaker design. You'll always please with something useful, such as a clock, trays or glasses."

### Domestic goddesses

Home is where their heart is, but they'll probably be so busy slaving over home-made Christmas cake, puddings and decorations, they'll find it hard to lavish as much time on their rooms.

"They'll be as delighted with a new set of mugs as a fashionista would be with a new pair of shoes," says Joanna McGivern at The Handpicked Collection.

"Above all, they'll want their home to be welcoming and cosseting, especially at this time of year when they're showcasing their domestic skills."

### Funky foodies

They're wine connoisseurs and gourmets who enjoy entertaining, so eye-catching but practical presents will appeal.

"Presents such as scented candles - cinnamon and cloves or fig are seasonal favourites - will particularly suit this type because they're aware of the importance of atmosphere in rooms and are sticklers for detail," says Kate Mooney at Occa-Home.

"But beware the dull and boring - they're looking for witty, talking point presents - and that's more important to them than the cost of the gift."

### Bachelor boys

Homemaking may not be a top priority but they still want a smart retreat that makes a style statement.

"Aim for gifts that are simple and unfussy," says Joanna McGivern at The Handpicked Collection. "But don't be scared of buying something obvious yet essential, such as handsome photo frames or perhaps a smart litter bin."

"And if you know their home well, it's thoughtful to get something useful such as a doorstop for a door that always slams, or a magazine rack so they can easily clear irritating clutter from a coffee table."

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# A Danish Christmas lunch in the Alentejo for the Algarve Wine Society

Following total oversubscription and two increases in the attendance capacity, a multinational party of sixty members of the Algarve Wine Society set off in two buses for Cortes de Cima vineyard near Vidigueira in the Alentejo on Wednesday, 24 November.



The Cortes de Cima Danish Christmas buffet table

A national strike, bad weather and an electrical fault on one of the buses conspired to try to compromise the day - but failed.

As we neared Vidigueira we became aware of an unusual bird perched on telegraph wires, but fortuitously we had our very own twitcher/member present and he was able to tell us we were witnessing the unusual Black Shouldered Kite. We saw no less than eight of them. An omen for a good day to follow.

The two coaches reached the plantation simultaneously and we were greeted by Carrie Jorgensen, co-owner of the 350 hectare estate. Carrie, a Californian, is married to a Dane, Hans Christian Jorgensen. Together they founded Cortes de Cima in 1988 and each is equally involved in the day-to-day management. Carrie heads the marketing and PR and Hans is the producer and winemaker.

Having arrived early, and needing to await participants arriving by car, the group was taken in and shown the impressive winery. Those driving duly arrived and a tasting began. In addition to the

superb Homagem to Hans Cristian Andersen 2008, Trincadeira 2008 and Touriga Nacional 2005, we tasted a delicious new 2010 white straight from the vat and not yet bottled. Simply delicious. The wines were accompanied by bread with a wonderful clean, peppery olive oil for dipping. Nearly fifty per cent of the farm is devoted to vines and about one fifth to olive groves.

We were then summoned to our Danish Christmas lunch and what a magnificent sight it was. A holiday buffet table created by Danish chef Bjarne Otto, heaving with marinated herrings, gravad laks with a dill dressing, fried fish filets with remoulade, Danish pork meat balls with cucumber sauce, crackly roast pork, and much, much more. This was followed, for those that had the appetite, by a cheeseboard and two Danish Christmas desserts. We drank Chaminé tinto and branco 2009, Cortes de Cima 2008, Syrah 2008, Aragonéz 2007 and the wonderful Reserva 2004.

Members then had the opportunity to purchase the wines they

had tasted, the sun came out, photos were taken in the simply stunning landscape and the party prepared for departure. Without exception, everyone experienced a most interesting and enjoyable day.

The Algarve Wine Society finishes its year with its traditional Christmas dinner, this year at the Meridien Hotel in the Penina resort complex on Saturday, 4 December. However, the 2011 program will start soon after the New Year, with a tasting at the Tivoli Hotel in Vilamoura on Saturday, 22 January.

Membership in the Society is at its upper limit, and there is a waiting list, but if you would like information about the AWS, or would like to join the waiting list, please contact the Secretary, Larry Hampton, by email: hampton@mail.telepac.pt.



Bjarne Otto serving Graham Brown, Maria Albuquerque and Ian Croft



Judith Adams with John & Lyn Davies enjoying the lunch



Gaynor Stapleton with chef Bjarne Otto



## Brian Turner's Victoria sponge (Makes 1 cake)

For the sponge:  
115g unsalted butter, plus extra for greasing  
115g plain flour, plus extra for dusting  
115g unrefined caster sugar  
2 eggs, beaten  
½ tsp baking powder  
Filling and topping:  
4tbsp jam  
Icing sugar

Butter and flour two 18cm sponge tins and preheat the oven to 230°C. Cream the measured butter and sugar together until soft and white. Gradually add the beaten eggs.

Sift the flour and baking powder together and lightly fold into the butter mixture.

Divide the mixture between the two tins and bake in the preheated oven for 10-15 minutes. Turn out on to a wire cake rack and leave to cool.

Spread one sponge with jam and lay the other on top.

Dust with icing sugar and serve.

Taken from Great British Grub by Brian Turner, published by Headline



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# Relaxed bistro dining in the heart of the Algarve

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Pork Fillet in a Diane sauce

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After a friendly welcome from host Fernando, diners are served with fresh crusty bread and a creamy homemade tuna paté, a refreshing change from the standard sardine pate and olives covet.

Vegetarians will be delighted with the specials on offer, such as Provencal tomatoes to start and a Medley of fresh seasonal vegetables in a creamy fruity sauce served on a bed of noodles, among the varied range of main courses available.

Those who like meat and fish are spoilt for choice with a good selection of seafood, meat, pasta, curries and sweet and sour dishes to choose from. Popular examples include prawns with mustard sauce and crispy breaded mushrooms for starters and Medallions of pork in a Diane sauce or Chicken Curry for main course.

Although the Wine List is limited, it focuses on local quality wines with great value prices to match such as Vinha das Lebres, a fruity red wine from the Alentejo region. The most expensive bottle will only set you back by €6,50 and for parties of four, Avenida Sol Bistro offers a free bottle of house wine with all evening meals and with their popular Sunday lunch.

The substantial portions of the main courses could leave little room for dessert, although there is always room for Avenida Sol Bistro's fresh pancakes served with chocolate and ice cream.

When the bill arrives, diners may find themselves pleasantly surprised, with a meal such as the ones described above costing less than €40. With main courses starting from as little as €4,50 for Chicken Piri Piri and Sunday Lunch priced at €6,90, this really is an affordable treat for all the family.

Vicky and Fernando have

managed to combine Portuguese and English culture making their restaurant popular with both the locals and ex-pat community in Messines and the surrounding villages. Their restaurant is a family run business with Vicky in the kitchen and Fernando providing the front of house service to their guests. The combination they have created is different from what everyone else is doing. They wanted to create a more modern and imaginative twist on the

norm for the restaurants in the area and have certainly succeeded.

In addition to the relaxed service and cheerful ambience, Avenida Sol, is unpretentious and not trying to be something it isn't.

The restaurant is now open seven days a week, serving food throughout the morning, afternoon and evening. To make a reservation for dinner or Sunday lunch, telephone Fernando on: 282 339 258.



Prawns with a mustard sauce



Medley of fresh vegetables on a bed of noodles



Chicken Curry

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- Chicken breast with tarragon cream
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The Heavenly Ski School at South Lake Tahoe, USA.

The Welcome to Nevada sign in the mountains at the border between California and Nevada



## The best of both worlds

It might be beach happy in the summertime but California also makes a fantastic skiing destination. Rosamond Hutt hits the slopes in the USA.

As our eight-man gondola inched its way up the mountain, the neon-lit casinos, motels and wedding chapels lining the highway shrank to toytown proportions before vanishing entirely beneath a ridge.

At last Heavenly was living up to its name. We found ourselves in a hushed, Narnia-esque world, with bear tracks criss-crossing the pine forest, branches creak-

ing under layers of snow and Lake Tahoe's sparkling waters, far below, reflecting the peaks of the Sierra Nevada range.

Holidaying in Heavenly on the south shore of Lake Tahoe, which straddles the California/Nevada border on America's west coast, means wholeheartedly embracing the resort's dual personality.

By day, our group was 3,000 metres above sea level skiing on immaculately-groomed runs, revelling in spectacular views of the cobalt blue lake on the Californian side and the rusty expanse of Nevada's desert on the other.

After dark, having abandoned any notion of traditional, gluhwein-fuelled après-ski, we joined the punters, margaritas in hand, trying their luck on the green baize tables in giant, Vegas-style casinos clustered on the Nevada side of the state line.

At Harrah's, a casino-hotel with almost 5,000 square metres of gaming space, we watched

Arthur "Arty" Hervey entertaining the highrollers, swingers and bachelor parties with a repertoire of hits ranging from Frank Sinatra to Justin Timberlake.

Playing the keyboard with one hand and mic in the other, Arty was obviously an old hand at enticing crowds away from blackjack and roulette tables. His rendition of Shaggy's Mr Bombastic had a group of pensioners swaying their hips as they fed coins into slot machines.

Across the road in California, where gambling is prohibited, nightlife tends to be much quieter. But the mountain terrain is enough to keep even the most adrenaline-hungry skier or boarder busy.

Near the top of the gondola is the beginners' area with a smattering of easy runs and a confidence-building "magic carpet", a conveyor belt that also serves as a lift for tobogganing and snowtubing.

Many of Heavenly's 94 runs are cruisy blues flanked by

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Couple riding a snowmobile at Lake Tahoe



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### Key facts: Heavenly

:: Best for: Those who are ready to swap Alpine-style après-ski for margaritas and roulette.

:: Time to go: Ski season is November to mid-April, but there are plenty of summer activities around Lake Tahoe.

:: Don't miss: Take a camera up the mountain to capture panoramic views of the lake framed by snow-capped peaks.

:: Need to know: Public transport in California is limited so organise the drive to the resort in advance.

:: Don't forget: ID - Drinking age limit in America is 21, but even if you're pushing 35 you can be asked to prove it.

### Travel facts

Rosamond Hutt was a guest of Virgin Holidays, which offers seven nights in California including Virgin Atlantic scheduled flights ex-Heathrow to San Francisco, five nights at the 5V Embassy Suites Hotel in South Lake Tahoe and two nights at the Sheraton Fisherman's Wharf in San Francisco, both on B&B, from £978 (€1,160).

Prices (based on two sharing standard room) include car hire and apply to early December departures.

Virgin Holidays reservations: [www.virginholidays.co.uk](http://www.virginholidays.co.uk), or visit one of 30 stores located in Debenhams and House of Fraser stores nationwide.

More information about snowmobiling and cruises available at [www.zephyrcove.com](http://www.zephyrcove.com).

San Francisco CityPASS (£40/€48.47 for adults, £24/€28.48 child) includes admission to five attractions, including Alcatraz, and unlimited cable car rides for seven days. See [www.citypass.com/city/sanfrancisco](http://www.citypass.com/city/sanfrancisco).



widely-spaced pines, making it an ideal for intermediates keen to tackle tree skiing for the first time.

Strictly for the experts are the double black diamond chutes in Mott and Killebrew canyons in Nevada, accessed via gates that close at 3pm. And over in California, the Gunbarrel, a mogul field that will make even the hardest thigh muscles scream for mercy.

For those who like their snow sports extreme, or "gnarly" as the locals say, four terrain parks provide a daunting assortment of kickers, table tops, boxes, rails and half pipes. And for super-size thrills and possibly spills, Heavenly boasts the biggest super pipe in the Tahoe area.

Luckily, our affable instructor Pat Medau, who runs a ski boot fitting service when he's not guiding people around the mountain, steered us away from pipes and icy moguls towards the best snow and almost empty slopes.

He also explained something that had baffled us since we rode

our first chairlift in Heavenly: why there were dozens of bras, knickers and strings of pink plastic beads dangling from branches.

Apparently we had arrived soon after Mardi Gras week when those brave enough to strip off, or skilled enough to remove their underwear from beneath layers of ski gear while on a chairlift, flung it into the treetops to "decorate" the resort.

But you don't need to ski and party hard to have a great time in Heavenly.

One alternative to the casinos is to join the starry-eyed couples celebrating engagements and anniversaries on a sunset dinner cruise aboard the Tahoe Queen, a paddlewheel boat which steamed up and down the Mississippi in the early 20th century.

On another afternoon, our group swapped skis and snowboards for snowmobiles.

We roared along zig-zag trails, through forests of towering pines and aspens, to the top of the

mountain to find such picture-perfect views of the lake that I half expected a stagehand to appear and start raising the backdrop.

Our ski instructor, Pat, warned us about Tahoe's abundant black bear population, and has caught several sifting through the his rubbish bins. The pristine backcountry is also home to chipmunks, raccoons, bobcats and mountain lions.

But hopes of spotting some of the local wildlife were dashed by the combined din of revving Yamaha engines and shrieks as our group grappled with unfamiliar steering and brakes.

Tahoe, the Native American word for "big water", is the world's second biggest Alpine lake after Titicaca and, not surprisingly with its breathtaking scenery, one of America's most popular skiing areas.

Bought in 2002 by Vail Resorts, which also owns four ski areas in Colorado, Heavenly is the

largest of seven resorts dotted around the lake, attracting around a million ski and board visitors each year.

Its proximity to hubs like San Francisco in California and Reno in Nevada make the resort a huge hit with day-trippers and weekenders as well as inter-state and long-haul visitors.

After the four-hour drive back to San Francisco to catch the flight home, we checked into the newly refurbished Sheraton Fisherman's Wharf for a 24-hour visit.

It's close to Pier 39, once a working fishing port and now packed with souvenir shops, street entertainers, cafes, restaurants and sunbathing sea lions.

On a dazzling spring day without a wisp of that soupy fog that so often shrouds the Golden Gate Bridge, we stretched our legs with a bike tour.

Despite killer hills like Lombard Street with eight switch-back turns, San Francisco is very bike-friendly, offering routes with flattish or gently undulating terrain past key landmarks.

From Fisherman's Wharf, we followed the curve of the Bay, our guide Hans pointing out wetsuited swimmers at Aquatic Park braving chilly waters and close encounters with playful sea lions weighing the equivalent of three sumo wrestlers.

Around each corner we caught glimpses of the magnificent Golden Gate Bridge and eerie, semi-derelict cell blocks of Alcatraz Island, home to some of America's most notorious prisoners between 1934 and 1963.

San Francisco, with its thriving foodie scene, pulsating nightlife and laid-back, hippy vibe, was the perfect way to round off a rather Heavenly trip.



Skiing at Lake Tahoe



The Beaver Creek adult ski school at Heavenly resort



A ski lift at Heavenly resort with a view of Lake Tahoe



Lake Tahoe

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## Eat right for your type

- **Blood type O:** Eat meat (high protein, low carbohydrate). Cut out wheat and most other grains. Take vigorous aerobic exercise. D'Adamo says risk factors for ulcers and inflammatory diseases such as arthritis increase if you eat incorrectly for your type.
- **Blood type A:** Eat a largely vegetarian diet (high carbohydrate, low fat). Take gentle exercise such as yoga or golf and meditate to deal with stress. D'Adamo says risk factors for cancer and heart disease increase if you eat incorrectly.
- **Blood type B:** Eat the most varied diet of all the blood types, including meat and dairy products. Take exercise such as moderate swimming or walking. The risk for slow-growing viruses which attack the nervous system increases if you eat incorrectly for your type.
- **Blood type AB:** Has most of the benefits and intolerances of types A and B, so most foods which are recommended for either type A or B will work. Engage in calming exercises and relaxation techniques.

tabolism and the immune system.

He claims this process has been directly linked to problems including arthritis, colitis, high cholesterol, anaemia, high blood pressure, stress, weight gain/loss, depression, diabetes and food cravings.

The book suggests that sticking to the diet around 70% of the time should be enough for most people.

"Unless your health is very bad and every minute counts, you probably don't need to be 100% compliant all the time."

D'Adamo says that in a self-reported study of 6,617 people who followed the diet for at least a month, three out of four people (71-78%) reported an improvement in their health conditions.

Weight loss was the effect most often observed, he says, but a number of reports detailed improvements in digestive function, resistance to stress, overall energy and mental clarity.

D'Adamo points out that the percentages reporting positive

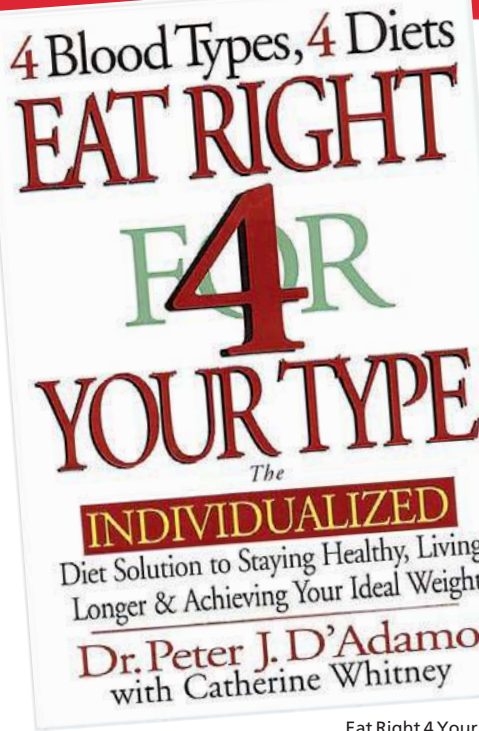
results were consistent across all the blood types, and stresses: "The results certainly appear to question many of the standardised 'one size fits all' diets."

"Genetic testing and personalised diets are now quite popular and perhaps nutrition science is catching up with The Blood Type Diet."

But if the Eat Right 4 Your Type diet, which was first published in the USA in 1997, has such good results, why hasn't it been adopted as best practice by medical professionals?

D'Adamo believes it's just a matter of time. Stressing that there is "significant research" available on everything discussed in his book, he says: "Although science is starting to catch on to the idea that there is no 'one-size fits all' diet, I predict you'll see a lot of changes to dietary recommendations in the next few years and a real move toward personalised nutrition programmes."

However, the British Dietetic Association (BDA) points out



Eat Right 4 Your Type by Dr Peter D'Adamo is published by Century Books. Available now.

that weight loss, increased energy and improved health are normal benefits of any sensible eating programme.

BDA spokesperson Ursula Arens says: "A lot of the blood group diet is promoting weight loss, and like many diets, it's effective because it imposes tight rules as to what you can and can't eat."

"Does it work - yes, but equally if I developed a diet that wasn't based on any kind of logical science, but simply imposed tight

rules, it would have the result that you lost weight."

"Being fat or being thin, and the benefits of eating meat or not eating meat etc in relation to blood groups, is not something we've been able to observe any real associations with."

"If you follow the diet, you will lose weight, but that isn't scientific proof of the theory, it's the imposition of tight rules."

Arens points out that there are "a million diets out there" if you want to lose weight.



woman eating right for her blood type

"The bottom line is that they work by restricting certain foods, and with that you're restricting calories."

She adds that when it comes to energy levels, most people say they feel better when they lose weight.

"I don't know what Cheryl Cole's diet was like before," she says. "Maybe this diet has imposed better meal patterns for her. There are lots of factors to consider when considering what we consume and how it affects our energy levels."

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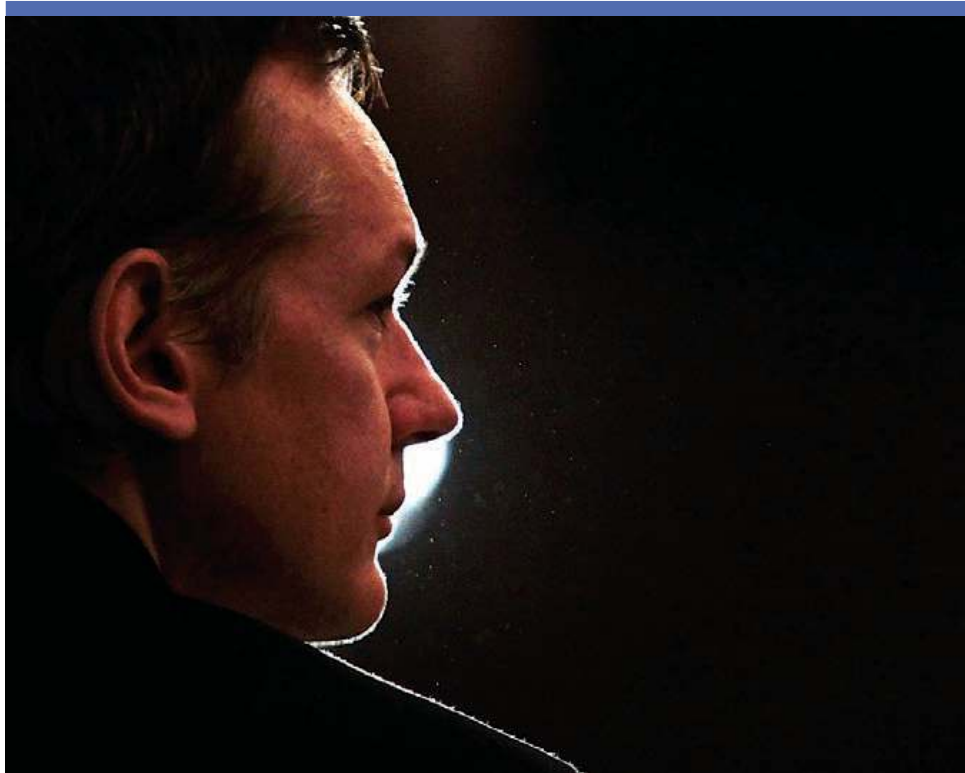
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# The WikiLeaks Controversy

The US government, faced with the publication on the internet of a quarter-million cables sent by US embassies in recent years, has responded just as it did when WikiLeaks posted similar troves of secret messages about the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq on the web earlier this year. It has solemnly warned that WikiLeaks is endangering the lives of American diplomats, soldiers and spooks.



Wikileaks founder Julian Assange during his press conference in London, Britain back in October last year. A Swedish court on 18 November 2010 approved a prosecutor's request to detain the founder of whistleblowing website WikiLeaks, Julian Assange, as part of a probe into alleged rape. The decision was announced after a closed door hearing at the Stockholm district court. The court ruling will allow prosecutors to seek assistance from other countries to obtain Assange's arrest. (Photo: EPA/Felipe Trueba)

"Such disclosures put at risk our diplomats, intelligence professionals, and people around the world who come to the US for assistance in promoting democracy and open government," the White House declared. "By releasing stolen and classified documents, WikiLeaks has put at risk not only the cause of human rights but also the lives and work of these individuals."

Hmm. Might there be some exaggeration here? Does the US ambassador to Moscow really face assassination for reporting, in late 2008, that President Dmitri Medvedev "plays Robin to (Prime Minister Vladimir) Putin's Batman"?

Will United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon really order a hit on US Secretary of State Hillary Clinton now that he knows she ordered US diplomats to collect the details of confidential networks used for official communication by senior UN officials, including passwords and personal encryption keys. (She also wanted their frequent flyer numbers, credit card details, fingerprints, iris scans, and DNA biometrics.)

Will French President Nicholas Sarkozy have the US ambassador murdered for saying that he has a "thin-skinned and authoritarian personal style"? Will Italian prime minister Silvio Berlusconi put out a kill order on Elizabeth Dibble, US charge d'affaires in Rome, for saying that he is "feckless, vain, and ineffective"?

And by the way, the leaked documents don't only deal with "people around the world who come to the US for assistance in promoting democracy and open government," as the White House pompously put it. They also reveal who came to the US for assistance in SUPPRESSING democracy and open government – and, quite frequently, got it.

The official outrage is as synthetic as it is predictable, and what drives it is not fear for the lives of American diplomats and spies but concern for their careers. But how did a big, grown-up government like that of the United States blunder into the error of making all this "secret" material so easily available?

It made the elementary mistake of thinking that electronic communications could really be kept secret, even when widely disseminated, if you just surround them with a sufficiently impressive clutter of passwords, security clearances and encryption. Any historian could have told them they were wrong. If it's written down, then it will come out sooner or later. In this case, it was sooner.

Before I realised that journalists have more fun and make (a little) more money, I trained as an historian and did research in the archives of various foreign ministries. I always pitied my colleagues working in earlier periods of history, when most things were decided face to face. By contrast, in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the period that I was studying, govern-

ments had got so big that everything was written down.

Documents would pass from one desk to another, and each recipient would note his comments in the margin and initial them. They had to do it that way, writing down what they really thought, because there were no telephones. It was a system that allowed subsequent historians to trace the way decisions actually got made – about thirty to fifty years later, when the files were finally opened to researchers.

Then, in the decade or so before the First World War, all those officials got telephones, and that system died. The officials had their confidential discussions on the phone, real motives never got written down, and the documents usually contained only a sanitised version of the policy debate. It got a lot harder to do good history.

What the US Defence Department thought it had invented in the Sipnet (Secret Internet Protocol Router Network) was a way to distribute confidential information widely, like in the good old days, but without jeopardising secrecy. Except that it wasn't secure, as the massive dump of cables on WikiLeaks demonstrates.

All you needed to access the Sipnet was a "Secret" security clearance. When the number of people with a "Secret" clearance or above was last counted by the General Accounting Office in 1993, there were more than three million of them. There are probably twice as many today. And all it takes is one of them to send the data to WikiLeaks, and the whole system is compromised.

The US government will persist in trying to get Julian Assange, the founder of WikiLeaks, jailed on one charge or another, but he is just the tip of the iceberg. The more widely you distribute information, the more likely it is to leak. If you disseminate it very widely by electronic means, it's almost certain to leak.

So distribution lists will get a lot shorter in the US and elsewhere. This may result in some minor degradation of the decision-making process, but not much, really. The most striking thing about those quarter-million messages is that they contain almost no real surprises. You'd be just as well informed about the world if you read a couple of good newspapers every day.



Gwynne Dyer is a London based independent journalist whose articles are published in 45 countries.

## Portuguese for Beginners

with Emília Rosendo



### LESSON 47

"vosso", "vossos", "vossa" and "vossas" - your (plural)  
Electrical Appliances and Devices

Read the sentences which follow:

O vosso forno é bom. ► *Your oven is good.*  
A vossa televisão é boa. ► *Your TV set is good.*  
Os vossos fornos são bons.  
► *Your ovens are good.*  
As vossas televisões são boas.  
► *Your TV sets are good.*



⇒ Write sentences using the words in brackets. Use "vosso", "vossa", "vossos" or "vossas", the correct verb form and ending as in the example:

► (os aquecedores/ estar desligado)  
*O vosso aquecedores estão desligados.*

- a) (a máquina de filmar/ ser novo)
- b) (os telefones/ ser branco)
- c) (o aspirador/ estar na despensa)
- d) (as calculadoras/ estar nas mochilas)

- e) (o computador/ ser lento)
- f) (a impressora/ ser antigo)
- g) (as máquinas fotográficas/ ser moderno)
- h) (os despertadores/ estar adiantado)
- i) (o leitor de CDs/ ser novo)
- j) (o ferro/ não aquecer bem)
- k) (o secador de cabelo/ ter duas velocidades)
- l) (as ventoinhas/ estar guardado)
- m) (o telemóvel/ estar fora de moda)
- n) (a máquina de café/ estar ligado)
- o) (a varinha/ já estar arranjado)
- p) (o gravador/ estar avariado)
- q) (a trituradora/ estar no armário)
- r) (a máquina de lavar loiça/ ser moderno)
- s) (o moinho de café/ ser resistente)
- t) (a máquina de lavar roupa/ ser velho)
- u) (as batedeiras/ ter cinco velocidades)
- v) (o micro-ondas/ não descongelar)
- w) (o fogão/ não ser eléctrico)
- x) (o frigorífico/ ser espaçoso)
- y) (a torradeira/ não funcionar)
- z) (o esquentador/ ser a gás)

Completed exercises can be corrected either by scanning the hardcopy onto your computer or copy and download exercises from our online pages at: [www.theportugalnews.com](http://www.theportugalnews.com). Send it/them as an attachment(s) via e-mail to: [lessons@theportugalnews.com](mailto:lessons@theportugalnews.com). Emília Rosendo will then correct and return to your e-mail address.



# Dogless weeks-lost without them

So having not been to the UK since Crufts the moment had arrived. I had bathed and groomed the 4 furries to within an inch of their lives, left reams of 'just in case' notes and tried to prepare myself. It is always a hectic rush before leaving no matter how organised one may think one is---so it ends up with a mad dash out of the door and dash to the Airport, making sure all doggies are in the right place and hating leaving them. Thank you to Julie for calming me down and delivering me to the correct checkin desk.

Off to the wilds of the doorstep of the Lake District, well Manchester first, then to just south of Kendal. 'Wilds' being the correct word. Fabulous, a wonderful old farmhouse on its own, with sheep, chickens and views for company---not to mention Son and family. A wonderful week of long walks over fields, hills and views followed. Warm fires and homemade soups, following the long walks, a fabulous time. It was very magical, transferring me back many years to the exhaustion of very small children, (3 un-

der 6 year-old girls, wonderful, entertaining), also even further back as I did spend some of my childhood nearby so it was definitely a week of memories. I kept thinking of the fun and games my doggies would have had on these walks, has to be said they would have been permanently wet and muddy however. There were also sheep and chickens and not quite sure how my lot would have reacted to them, the OES should instinctively have herded which could have caused mega problems---PWDs, well I have a feeling they would not have been at their best in a field of sheep!

All too soon I had to pack up and brave the joys of the UK transport system! Yes a seven and a half hour train journey to Torquay. Oh how wonderful trains in the UK are---no heating, too crowded to move, thank goodness I booked seats and it was standing room only in all carriages if no seat booked, broken toilets and no buffets. However they were all on time so I was grateful for that---not for the short minutes between trains at Birmingham and about 8

platforms between them, a run was needed, not easy with cases etc. So great fun and games. Luckily my Daughter in Law had provided me with a wonderful picnic to keep me going. Just to really finish the day the toilets at Torquay station were bolted!

After a week of catching up with family and friends and then another long train journey on 3 cold trains but at least working toilets and back to Gatwick for the return flight. My poor parents lost their doggy 6 months ago and he was very obviously missing---no barking on my arrival, no alerting them to the phone and the door. They are finding it very hard to adjust and all of us who have lost good furry friends can understand that.

So I had a completely dog free two weeks---very odd.

My return was welcomed with

16 feet, 4 over wagging tails and lots of cries of excitement. I had missed them and they had missed me. Then began the 'damage' repair---obviously with the shop and all that comes with it to cope with, dog grooming was down low on the list. They had all been brushed but had obviously all had far too much fun and games in our wild garden and the burrs had taken their toll. All needed baths and long grooms. I started with the easy and smallest one, Merlin---white feet and rain do not mix and having returned his feet to their correct colour, a few days later they are back to a brown shade of white. I had the invaluable help of Sue Ogden with the two worst, namely Cleo and Cassie. She is an experienced lady used to coping with show dogs, (please ring her on 910 851 140 if you need any grooming advice). Even with

help it still took me 4 hours to deal with Cleo and the same for Cassie. They are ongoing tasks and the penalty I pay for having show dogs obviously.

The show calendar is over until the middle of January but it does not work to just 'give up' and have time off. Merlin is at a big show in January, Cleo has Crufts and Cassie still has to find her 'show feet'. This means that my time MUST be spent on training for definitely Cassie and Merlin with a quick 'reminder' training for Cleo for a few weeks before the show, she is seasoned to it all now and knows what to do, even if she is not always 'in the mood', that is just Cleo she is so gorgeous she gets away with her sometimes Diva queen antics. As I write this it is Cleo's fifth birthday and she is with me at the shop being spoilt by clients and myself, she is en-

joying every moment. I find it incredible that she has been with me this long. She is still a 'jumping bean', still full of energy with no sign of maturing and becoming sensible.

Seems that I escaped in the nick of time as the UK is now covered in snow and everything at a standstill---so I will appreciate the clear blue sky here, even the rain, it is good to be back home again.

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## Milo & Me

### Milo & Fidji

Isn't it funny how life works sometimes.

Before I knew my other half I don't think I'd ever met a South African (or if I had I never realised it). Now, because he's South African, I know loads of them! I never imagined the South African community in Portugal was so large and I've lived here 20 years...

The same comparison could be drawn (in the nicest possible way and without meaning to be offensive) about Milo. I'd never even heard of the Weimaraner breed let alone seen one until we got ours. Now, not only do I have one, but they seem to be popping up everywhere. For example: our vet has one, our neighbours' cousin's neighbours in Lisbon may be the owners of Milo's father, our other neighbour used to dog-sit one in the UK, my cousin's boyfriend has one, and, to top it all off, at the Mamamaratona the other month I bumped into a former work colleague (and friend - AND she's South African!) and found out she has a Weimaraner too! Even more unusually hers also has a full tail.

We agreed to meet up one Sunday and take both dogs for a good old run, and that is what we did

last weekend. Me, Milo, Claudia, Hugo, their three month old daughter Rita, Fidji the Weim, and Chico, a very old but full of snappy attitude dog: all went a-walking.

It was a bit uncanny to see Milo with another dog of the same breed. In fact, to see them together was awesome. Fidji is a year-and-a-half old, her eyes are darker amber than Milo's and her fur is a few shades darker too. But she is such a pretty dog and to see her and Milo running flat-out together was incredible. They're like race-horses; pure muscle and energy.

In fact I think Milo has a bit of a crush on Fidji, even though she did most of the chasing. Claudia and Hugo took an 'indestructible' ball for the dogs to play with except Milo left his gentlemanly manners at home and refused to share. He literally would not play ball.

Gorgeous little Rita was wrapped up warm in her pram; I was absolutely terrified that Milo would crash into it (he gets a bit distracted), or jump on it to try and see what was inside, but its almost like he knew he needed to steer clear of the pram and pretty



much left it alone. Apparently Fidji is brilliant with Rita too and Rita smiles and gurgles and gets all excited when she hears Fidji's name. (Ok, everyone say 'ahhhhhh'.)

Fidji was taken in by Claudia and Hugo after being abandoned. Bless them, they've had their furniture chewed, socks stolen, shoes ran off with, clothes nibbled, things pulled over and the house pretty much destroyed too. And even though Fidji's been to obedience school I can see that same cheeky naughtiness and determination in those amber eyes; these dogs are clever - too clever sometimes. I have to confess I

was rather pleased to hear it though, a bit relieved, and very, very sympathetic. It was reassuring to know that Fidji's temperament is exactly the same as Milo's and we're not alone in our little issues, nor are we the only ones muddling on, making the best of the situation and coming up with new solutions until that much-anticipated 'one day when he calms down'. I've got a slight suspicion that that 'one day' might not be coming any time soon...

But until it does, as they say, a problem shared is a problem halved and those holes in the garden are looking smaller by the day!

Carrie-Marie Bratley

## Hi There !

Many PUPPIES are waiting for a good loving home. They are very friendly and will be small to medium adult size. They have been wormed and defleaded. Call Valerie (Donkey Sanctuary) for a visit 913 860 865 or send an email to: lili10.evann@yahoo.fr



Do you recognize this dog? She arrived at my home almost starving to death. She has made a good recovery, but is missing her owner. The vet thought that she had been walking a number of weeks, and was in a poor condition. Her vaccinations are now up to date, but she desperately wants to go home now. t.m. 914662376

LUCY. Rescued from a terrible traffic accident where she was stuck in a drainage pipe for 2 days. Lucy is an extremely affectionate and loving 5 year old medium sized female lab cross. She is recovering very well and would love to find a new family to love. JOE is a large two to three year old spayed female pointer mix. She is very affectionate and outgoing. She loves attention and would love a family where she gets lots of exercise or has a garden to play in. Or inquire about Charley, a gorgeous male pointer puppy also available. SPOT: A beautiful two year old neutered male dalmation. Spot is a very loyal dog who is very fond of people, excellent in the house and good with children. He loves to please and is very affectionate and obedient. HEATHER. 2 yr old spayed female wom we think has been at the shelter since she was a puppy so needs a little extra time with a caring family who will give her the love she needs. She wants to approach, wags her tail at visitors but still not confident enough to make the final step. PUPPIES. Lab cross

puppies, now 8 weeks, found with mother. CONTACT: 927 921 635 or visit: sosalarveanimals.com and quintinha-animalcentre.org



Bino is a small doggy, around 6-7 kg and 3-4 years old. He is white, fluffy and has blue eyes. And he is sooo nice. Only wants cuddling. He is now in a temporary home and we know that he is house trained and used to living inside. But his temporary mum is not from Portugal and will go back home for Christmas, then he will have to go back to the shelter. We need to find a home for him before - if you are interested, contact: sesimbra.bianca@gmail.com or see our webpage: www.bianca.pt/english

## ANNOUNCEMENT

L.A.P.S. - Lagos Animal Protection Society are holding their Annual Charity Fair at the Tivoli Hotel, Lagos, on Saturday 4 and Sunday 5 December from 10:00am to 4:00pm. This Fair is in aid of hundreds of animals that L.A.P.S. feed, treat and shelter every year, including abused and injured animals. The latest addition is an injured 'baby' seagull. Donations of books, bric-a-brac, clothes and unwanted gifts are gratefully accepted at our Almadena shop. Please come along to the Fair to HELP US TO HELP THEM. For more information, please call Bridget Hicks on 282 687 334.



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## Top Beauty Therapist gains further recognition



Suzie Bell, of Senses... Skin Care Centre, Lagos

Suzie Bell, of Senses... Skin Care Centre, Lagos was awarded the title of the Therapist of the Year at the 2010 Professional Beauty Awards in London earlier this year and following a year of continued growth, development and commitment to her clients has again become one of the finalists for this award.

After entering a portfolio detailing her qualifications, achievements and client testimonials Suzie, was short-listed for the award and had to fly back to the UK last Friday for the final judging process. Suzie was required to carry out two treatments on a model and was then interviewed by a panel of industry experts.

Suzie was the first beauty therapist to win this prestigious award from outside of the UK. The judges last year commended Suzie on her attention to detail, the commitment that she shows to her clients and the superior knowledge that she demonstrates through her treatments, especially her facial treatments and anti-ageing procedures.

To celebrate the success of reaching the shortlist Suzie is offering special anti ageing treatment courses with huge discounts... just in time for Christmas.

Suzie this year introduced Microdermabrasion to her skin care and beauty centre in Lagos meaning that she can now offer one of the best anti ageing treatments available, combining this new treatment with her existing Non-Surgical Facelift treatment. Suzie has been carrying out these treatments now for the last nine months and has seen fantastic, visible and permanent results, with clients travelling from as far away as Faro to experience this amazing therapy.

Suzie now wants to offer new and existing clients something extra special for Christmas and has created a course of treatments designed to give amazing anti ageing results in the minimum number of sessions.

The Turbo Lift Dermabrasion Firming Facial Course combines all of the best aspects of each of Suzie's signature facials; Lifting, Microdermabrasion and Firming Masques. Ideally Suzie suggests having five of these treatments before Christmas

then five after Christmas although the course can be catered to your own commitments and budget.

This treatment would normally cost 75 euros per session but Suzie is offering five treatments for only 195 euros, giving you a huge saving of 180 euros.

If you decide to pay for 10 treatments (five before Christmas and five after Christmas) you'll also get an additional 10% off! If you would like to experience just one of these treatments, there is a special

price of 60 euros.

Suzie does get extremely busy and it is advised that you book early for this treatment as it will be hugely popular.

Call Suzie or Tim on 282 762 261 at Senses... in Lagos to book your appointment.



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# Look 10 years younger today!

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Residents and visitors can now experience a youthful new look with a Jayne Jackson bespoke make-over.

If time is of the essence then why not treat yourself to a half-day of pampering treatments. Shirley Dunne did just that. Advanced Permanent Makeup and

Brow Artist Jayne Jackson started the make-over with an Ultra Definition Brow treatment using a unique technique of tweezing, waxing (if appropriate), tinting, threading and cutting. It's ideal for anyone who wants to look and feel great (and younger!) without having to

spend hours in front of the mirror. You save valuable time while enhancing your features. The benefits are perfectly shaped eyebrows that frame the face.

To complement the brows, Jayne carried out an Eyelash Tint and a Cleansing & Relaxation Facial to clarify and brighten Shirley's complexion. The treatment included an anti-ageing mask made by Jayne to suit each individual client. The final look was made complete with colour, styling and a blow-dry. Stylist and colourist Jeanny did a thorough consultation on the client's lifestyle, and worked closely with her natural curls and busy schedule to give her a cut and colour that would suit and look beautiful when simply washed.

Commenting on her experience at the Jayne Jackson Beauty Centre, Shirley said: "Initially I was a bit nervous about a 'makeover', but Jayne immediately put me at my ease and did a fantastic job of defin-

ing my eyebrows and eyelashes followed by a relaxing facial. "When I looked in the mirror at the results, I couldn't believe how much the facial had improved my skin, it was really noticeable. Jayne's excellent stylist then gave me a new hairstyle with some different highlights and lowlights and it looked really great. All my friends have commented since that I look 10 years younger". And the pictures certainly speak for themselves.

Jayne Jackson is open Monday to Saturday from 10:00 am till close. Appointments are recommended.

Details of the above make-over are as follows:

Ultra Definition Brows - €25, Eyelash Tint - €10, Cleansing & Relaxing Facial - €35, Highlights, Styling & Blow Dry - €110

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**ST. JAMES'S CHURCH, ANGLICAN CHAPLAINCY OF OPORTO.** Largo da Maternidade, Júlio Dinis. Sun. 11am Details from Chaplain (22) 609 1006. [www.stjamesoport.com](http://www.stjamesoport.com) **THE SALVATION ARMY OPORTO** Pereiro Corps (Av. Vasco da Gama No: 675-2 E Ramalde), Service 10am, Salvation Meeting 5.00pm. Coloras Corps. (Av. dos Bombeiros Voluntários; Tel: 22 929 1077) Sun. 10am. Thurs 4.00pm Ladies Home League Meeting.

**JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES** - Public Talk in English. Praça Don Afonso V, 168, Sunday 10.30am. Tel: 226 160 976. **Caldas da Rainha** **ANGLICAN EVENING WORSHIP IN ENGLISH.** At 8.00pm on the Second Sunday of each month. Held in the Evangelical Baptist Church, Rua Dr. José Saudade e Silva 27/29, between Railway Station and central 'Pingo Doce'. For details phone 262881393. **JEHOVAH'S WITNESSES** - Public Talk in English. Rua Adelino Amaro da Costa, next to RCRIP 2520 Peniche/Óbidos. Sunday 11am (1st & 2nd Sunday of the month).

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## Love came down at Christmas

Carol Service  
ASCA  
Almancil  
Fri Dec 17th 6pm

Midnight Mass  
Convento de S. José  
Lagoa  
Fri Dec 24th 11.30pm

Carol Service  
Convento de S. José  
Lagoa  
Sun Dec 19th 6pm

Christmas Day  
Service of Holy Communion  
Dec 25th 10.30pm  
tba

No services on Sunday 26th December at Almancil or Lagoa



**ALL SAINTS ANGLICAN CHURCH**

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[www.allsaintsalgarve.org](http://www.allsaintsalgarve.org)



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## Announcements

### CHRISTMAS FAIR

Sunday: December 5th,  
Carvoeiro Tennis Club  
1:00 to 6:00PM  
Lovely hand-crafted items  
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### OKIDO INTERNATIONAL

Kindergarten is now  
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935250645 (Sesmaria  
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fridays 10-12h €3

**CANCER MEETINGS** Have  
you been affected by Can-  
cer? Members of the wom-  
en's cancer support group  
meet for advice or an infor-  
mal chat on the first Wednes-  
day of every month in Loulé.  
If you would like to join us,  
please contact Vi on 289 882  
680 or 917962255.



**CHRISTMAS FAIR** at the  
Mirage Restaurant in  
Praia da Luz on Satur-  
day, Dec. 18th from  
11:00 to 5:00pm. Come  
and have your picture  
taken with Father  
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NECI school in Luz.

**CASA - IS** a local social group  
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## Charities

**AYAMONTE ANIMAL** Rescue  
Fund Raising Craft Fair &  
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0034 959053096.

**DURING THIS** holiday  
season, Nandi Animal  
Charity in Lagos will be  
thanking special people  
and organisations in this  
space. They are friends of  
Nandi who helped us in  
various ways this year.

Pat Allen of AFPOP  
orchestrated a very  
successful fund-raising  
event for Nandi. With  
great, good cheer, Alison  
Castanheira cares for  
unwanted cats that come  
our way. The Tivoli  
Hotel/Lagos donates  
meeting venues. Bless-  
ings of the season to all!  
More next week.



**CAR BOOT** Sale held every  
3rd Sunday of the month at  
Restaurant 'Quinta dos  
Areões', adjacent to the Vet-  
erinary Clinic in Espiche.  
Stallholders pay from €3. All  
proceeds go to Rosco's Char-  
ity Association. Call Alfred  
on 919886955 or contact us  
on our website  
www.roscofoundation.org  
for more information.

**CHARITY SHOP**, Montechoro,  
Albufeira (behind chemist's)  
needs volunteers to help in  
the shop. Please ring Lesley:  
962 414 584

**WANTED: THE** Donkey Sanc-  
tuary needs your unwanted  
furniture, clothes, books and  
bric-a-brac for our charity  
shops in Lagoa and Monte  
Carvoeiro, all proceeds to  
aid donkeys in distress. We  
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Nan Richardson 962 633 811,  
for details of our work for  
animal welfare. Please help.

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**TAVIRA TREASURE** Charity  
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tre, Av. Mateus Teixeira de  
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Skippers Bar). Come and  
browse, come and bring  
clothing, bric-a-brac, books.  
Open Wednesdays, 2:30-  
4:30pm and Saturdays  
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**ALBUFEIRA ABA** Charity  
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open Tuesday to Saturday  
10:30am until 2:00pm (next  
door to the Galeano Bar)  
on the road that leads to  
the Marina, from the dual  
carriageway. We are an in-  
dependent charity, using  
the income from the shop  
for neutering animals.  
Please help us by donating  
items for sale.

**APAA CHARITY** Shops. Cerro  
Grande, Albufeira, Tuesday  
to Saturday 10:30am to  
2:00pm; Dunas do Alvor,  
Tuesday to Saturday  
10:30am to 2:00pm and Sun-  
day 10:30am to 1:00pm; Rua  
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jigsaws, etc. Stock and new  
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Help us to help abandoned  
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**DO YOU** have some spare  
time? Would you like to  
make new friends and help  
animals, too? Become a vol-  
unteer for the Nandi Animal  
Charity Shops in Lagos.  
Most volunteers work one  
half-day a week. Join us!  
We are a friendly group and  
we need you! For more in-  
formation, call Susan at  
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taurant Atlântico opposite  
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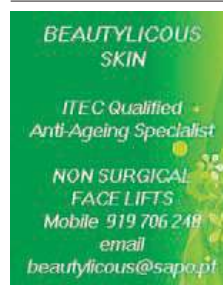
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[www.stjulians.com](http://www.stjulians.com)

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St. Julian's Primary School wishes to appoint an enthusiastic and successful primary class teacher with English National Curriculum experience for a Foundation maternity cover starting on the 1st March 2011. They should be committed to teaching, have excellent inter-personal skills and be passionate about children's learning. The successful candidate will have high expectations of all children and what they can achieve. A clear understanding and knowledge of the Foundation curriculum would be preferable. The school offers the opportunity to teach in an attractive environment supported by dedicated and caring colleagues. Letters of application and C.V.s, with references should be sent to the Primary School Principal at the above address. Closing date: 15th December 2010 to be interviewed in January 2011.

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## Mums &amp; Tots



Tuesdays 10.00am - 12.00  
Meet friends, coffee, fun, playing, puppets. ICC Church Hall, Lagos. For further details on location of Church and Sunday services (with Kidz Klub) & other activities and available courses at International Community Church, see web site [www.icc-lagos.org](http://www.icc-lagos.org) or call 282 697 546 or 282 086 804.

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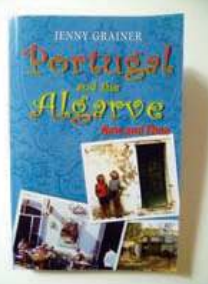
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# Spain sees smoking ban enforced in 2011

 Eloise Walton

Smokers across the border have just a few short weeks to light up in Spain's restaurants, bars and cafes before the smoking ban comes into force on 2 January, 2011.

The Government had hoped to tighten the rules on smoking in public places this year, following 2006 reforms that banned smoking in the workplace and the national underground metro, among other locations.

The proposed restrictions were however pushed back on numerous occasions to alleviate the potential loss of business in bars by the constant lobbying of the economy minister.

The restrictions have faced tough opposition from Spain's Hotel and Catering Federation, which believes that a full smoking ban will badly damage the industry, with sales projected to fall by 7 percent in restaurants and up to 15 percent in bars and cafes.

According to statistics pre-

sented earlier this year by the Spanish Health Minister, Trinidad Jimenez, 44.2 percent of Spaniards opposed tougher smoking restrictions, while 47.4 percent were in favour and the rest undecided.

"We're talking about a reform to public health...smoking kills 161 people every day," she said.

For some establishments however, the ban on smoking is a positive move, which instead of driving clients away will encourage even more to venture in.

A spokesman from a Costa Esuri-based Bistro and Bar told **The Portugal News**: "I took the initiative to make my establishment non-smoking last January, when I changed from a smoking bar to a restaurant."



He added: "I thought we may have some resistance, especially from local clients, but the change was well received and has encouraged more families with children to come to Jag's, while smokers simply go outside when they want to smoke."

Kevin Alder, who runs a restaurant in Isla Canela told **The Portugal News**: "I realised that many of my clients didn't like smoke while they were eating, so I separated my establishment into a non-smoking restaurant area and a smoking bar."

He added that the change worked well and was accepted by clients, as well as encouraging more diners.

"People who want to smoke can do so at the bar or on the terrace in summer. Although the media are announcing the smoking ban, I haven't received a formal notification to change," he added.

Meanwhile, some enterprising companies are looking to make a profit from the new law by promoting the electronic cigarette, an alternative income source for bars and restaurants to keep smokers happy and create some revenue.

The electronic cigarette is a viable alternative for smokers because it does not involve secondhand smoke and is acceptable to be smoked in public.



A woman working in a tobacco factory. (Photo: Lusa / Inácio Rosa)



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# Benfica make ground on FC Porto

**Brendan de Beer**

After Benfica's drubbing at the hands of Israeli minnows Hapoel Tel Aviv last week, the defending champions were in serious need of a win as they travelled to Aveiro in order to appease their fans who, while having grown accustomed to not always winning, do not accept being second best.

An ill-tempered 'Classico' between Sporting and FC Porto on Saturday evening was the pick of the weekend's fixtures, but with the game ending in a 1-1 draw, it was a chance for Benfica to cash in and look to reduce the 10-point deficit between themselves and the Oporto club.

The defending champions clash against Beira-Mar was seen as crucial in securing under-fire manager Jorge Jesus and his players did not disappoint.

The opener was scored by

Oscar Cardozo after being awarded a penalty. The Paraguayan international had been injured since the beginning of the season and his return marked a Benfica which resembled the near unbeatable 2009/10 team.

Cardozo doubles his tally on the hour mark, and laid on a third for striking partner Javier Saviola to put the game out of Beira-Mar's reach.

The Aveiro club scored a late consolation goal, but Benfica will now look forward to their match this Friday evening with renewed vigour as they look to maintain the pressure on FC Porto.

Sporting play on Sunday evening when they travel to Faro to face relegation-threatened Portimonense, while FC Porto will have to wait until Monday to face Vitória Setúbal.



FC Porto's coach André Villas Boas reacts during their first league soccer match against Sporting at Alvalade XXI stadium in Lisbon on 27 November. (Photo: Lusa / Miguel A. Lopes).

## Lights go out on Portimonense

**Brendan de Beer**

The one thousand or so fans who braved the cold and the wet to support Portimonense in their 'home' fixture at the Algarve Stadium against União Leiria were handed an unpleasant surprise as floodlight failure meant the game had to be suspended shortly after the start of the second-half.

With kick-off at 4pm, floodlights, given the extensive cloud cover, would be needed for second half as Portimonense looked to gain some points that would lift them from second from bottom in the Portuguese league.

Portimonense enjoyed a perfect start to the match as

they scored within the first minute. The Portimão team, whose stadium is being renovated and now have to practice in Parchal, Lagoa and play in Faro, had several opportunities to double their lead, most notably through South African striker Calvin Kadi, who was unable to beat the sometimes fortunate Leiria defence as Portimonense dominated proceedings.

Shortly before the break the floodlights came on, but only for a brief instance.

Players returned after the break and managed to play eight more minutes before the referee decided to call the match off until the floodlights had been restored.

After 45 minutes of waiting and with technicians unable to rectify the problem, the game was postponed to the next day at 3pm when sunlight was sure not to be a problem.

In the end, the 23-hour break did Leiria wonders who managed to undo all Portimonense's good work in the remaining 37 minutes played as they scored two unanswered goals to record their first away win of the season.

Portimonense face Sporting at the Algarve Stadium this Sunday evening at 8.15pm, where floodlight failure is not an option for one of the biggest crowds the Algarve club will entertain all season.

## Olhanense return empty handed

**Christopher Wright**

The Algarve side were hoping to record their first away win of the season but returned empty handed after a poor game at Paços de Ferreira.

On a cold, wintry day in northern Portugal, the visitors succumbed to a 22nd minute goal from André Leão. His blistering 30-metre shot gave Olhanense keeper Moretto no chance.

Manager Daúto Faquirá started the game with centre-forward Yontcha ploughing a lone furrow up front and it nearly paid dividends in the sixth minute.

Jorge Gonçalves' cross was only millimetres away from finding the head of Yontcha with the keeper well beaten. Olhanense, without a league win since early October, have now slipped to ninth in the Premier Liga.

It is very tight in mid-table and whilst the Algarve's top team are only four points off a place in Europe, they are only three points away from the lower reaches of the league. In the second period Lulinha, Toy and Djalmir replaced Vinicius, Yontcha and central defender Mauricio. The new formation looked more lively but despite superior possession it did not penetrate a resolute defence. Olhanense defender Fernando Alexandre said after the game, "It is difficult to return home after this defeat because we felt we were the better team and did sufficient to win."

Today (Friday) over 1,500 fans will be leaving Olhão to travel north to do battle with Benfica at the Stadium of Light. Kick-off is 8.15pm live on Sport

TV. This is the first, of what could be three trips to play the league champions in the next six weeks. Olhanense play Benfica in the League Cup on 19 January but before that they will meet the winners of the Benfica/Sporting Braga in the Taça de Portugal (FA Cup) 5th round.

The original 4th round tie between Benfica and Sp. Braga, due to have been played on the 19 November, was postponed until 12 December due to the NATO Summit in Lisbon that weekend.

Meanwhile, Olhanense's 24 year-old Brazilian midfielder Vinicius, who has another eighteen months left on his contract,

is expected to leave in the January transfer window. A fee in the region of half-a-million euros, the largest ever received for an Olhanense player, is rumoured to have been offered. Several Spanish clubs are keen on the former Porto player.

There has also been interest from France and Greece, whilst Vitória de Guimarães and Sporting Braga should not be ruled out. Olhanense could therefore be in the market for a replacement and the Mozambican Jumis (Portimonense) has the desired credentials. Other players who might also be on the move include Paulo Sergio and Yontcha.

### SUPERLEAGUE FIXTURES WEEK 13

MATCH	DATE	TIME	TV
Benfica-Olhanense	Friday	20h15	SportTV
Guimarães-P. Ferreira	Saturday	19h15	SportTV
Leiria-Braga	Saturday	21h15	SportTV
Rio Ave-Beira-Mar	Sunday	16h00	
Nacional-Naval	Sunday	16h00	
Académica-Marítimo	Sunday	16h00	
Portimonense-Sporting	Sunday	18h15	SportTV1
FC Porto-Setúbal	Monday	19h45	TVI

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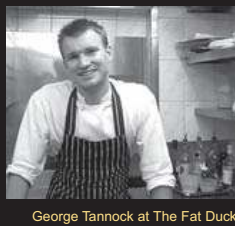
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George Tannock at The Fat Duck

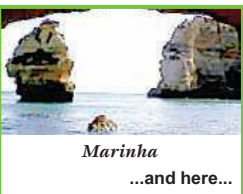


Slow cooked egg yolk with ricotta foam in a lemon filo basket and smoked red pepper purée



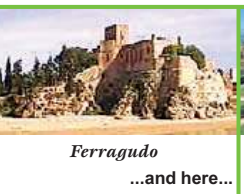
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